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**HISTORY**  
OF  
**Hamilton and Clay Counties**  
**NEBRASKA**

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*Supervising Editors*

GEORGE L. BURR, Hamilton County

O. O. BUCK, Clay County

Compiled by

DALE P. STOUGH

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**VOL. I**

**ILLUSTRATED**

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CHICAGO

**THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY**

1921

## HYMN TO NEBRASKA

BY REV. WILLIAM H. BUSS, FREMONT

Now laud the proud tree planter state,  
Nebraska,—free, enlightened, great;  
Her royal place she has in song:  
The noblest strains to her belong:

Her fame is sure.

Then sing Nebraska through the years;  
Extol her stalwart pioneers:  
The days when, staunch and unafraid,  
The state's foundations, well they laid,  
To long endure.

The land where Coronado trod,  
And brave Marquette surveyed the sod:  
Where red men long in council sat;  
Where spreads the valley of the Platte  
Far 'neath the sun.

The land, beside whose borders sweep  
The big Missouri's waters, deep,  
Whose course erratic, through its sands,  
From northland on, through many  
lands,

Does seaward run.

The foothills of the Rockies lie  
Afar athwart her western sky:  
Her rolling prairie, like the sea,  
Held long in virgin sanctity

Her fertile loam.

Her wild-life roamed o'er treeless plains  
Till came the toiling wagon-trains,  
And settlers bold, far westward bound,  
In broad Nebraska's valley found

Their chosen home.

Now o'er her realm and 'neath her sky,  
Her golden harvests richly lie;  
Her corn more vast than Egypt yields:  
Her grain unmatched in other fields:

Her cattle rare.

Alfalfa fields, by winding streams:  
And sunsets, thrilling poets' dreams,  
These all we sing, and know the time  
Has ne'er revealed a fairer clime,  
Or sweeter air.

O proud Nebraska, brave and free;  
Thus sings thy populace to thee,  
Thy virile strength, thy love of light:  
Thy civic glory, joined with right,  
Our hearts elate.

Thy manly wisdom, firm to rule;  
Thy womanhood in church and school;  
Thy learning, culture, art, and peace  
Do make thee strong, and ne'er shall  
cease

To keep thee great.

(to be included on occasion)

Her heaving bluffs uplift their heads  
Along her winding river beds,  
And, pleasing far the traveler's view,—  
Well guard her Elkhorn and her Blue,  
Ereowned with wood.

And there, by landmarks, ne'er to fail,  
Upon the ancient westward trail;  
Or graven stone, securely placed,  
By eye observant may be traced  
Where wigwam stood.

Her honored cities grow in wealth;  
In thriving commerce, public health;  
Her first, the gateway of the west;  
Her Omaha, that will not rest,

Nor take defeat.

Her capital of worthy fame,  
That bears the mighty Lincoln's name,  
And thousands of Nebraska youth  
E'er summons to her fount of truth,  
At learning's seat.



# PREFACE

## THE STORY OF A STATE

Events do not necessarily have to be a century behind in the dim past to be history. Nebraska is making history at a dizzy speed. Here lies an opportunity for the chronicler not only to dig into the past, but from the raw material of the present form valuable foundations for future reference. There are men yet living in this vicinity who can remember the time when its connection with the human story would have seemed absurd. They have seen the buffalo, the antelope, the prairie dog and the coyote, the rattlesnake and the owl, and even the occasional friendly Indian retire before the explorer, the trader, the Mormons, the immigrants, the homesteader, the stalwart pioneer, and seen the endless prairies dotted with the soddy, then the hut, and finally the luxuriant farms and prosperous towns of present Nebraska.

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Full volumes have been written on the history of Nebraska, going into long, laborious detail upon each important topic. But so many readers feel that the task of familiarizing themselves with volume after volume is too exacting upon the time of the busy, hurried twentieth-century individual. So it has been considered expedient to introduce the county historical section of this work with an abridged review of the historical development of the State of Nebraska. That this may be equally interesting to readers of all classes, be brief enough to be thoroughly examined, be systematized so that the salient facts can be found whenever reference is desired, this part of the work has been compiled by the undersigned and many others, whose work has assisted him in a synoptical, chronological and encyclopedic arrangement.

A work of this character is not the product of one person's research, energy or ideas, but a compilation of the earnest fruitful endeavors of many persons. Particularly do the compiler and publishers wish to acknowledge thankful indebtedness to Hon. Addison E. Sheldon, secretary; Mrs. Clarence E. Paine, librarian; Albert Watkins, historian; and E. E. Blackman, curator of the Nebraska State Historical Society; George E. Condra, director of the Nebraska Conservation Commission, whose careful research of years "boiled down" in the Bulletin 14 of that department has gratefully been received as authority for a major portion of Chapters I, XIII and XIV of this work; and due gratitude and credit is extended to the work of Prof. Samuel Aughey and others who assisted in compilation of historical material in the early '80s, Harrison Johnson of Omaha, Prof. H. W. Foght, in his "Trail of the Loup," Gen. G. M. Dodge, and the authorities of the Federal Government for data furnished from their publications.

DALE P. STOUGH,

Grand Island, Nebraska.



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"To me it seems that to look on the land that was ever lifted above the wasted waters, to follow the shore where the earliest animals and plants were created when the thought of God first expressed itself in organic form, to hold in one's hand a bit of stone from an old sea-beach, hardened into rock thousands of centuries ago, and studded with the beings that once crept upon its surface or were stranded there by some retreating wave, is even of deeper interest to man than the relics of their own race, for these things tell more directly of the thought and creative acts of God."—*Jean Louis Agassiz*.

Of course the history of a particular county named in the title of this work, and to the modern history of which the major portion of this work will be devoted, is inseparably wrapped into the history of the State of Nebraska. The history of the State of Nebraska cannot be creditably and comprehensively written without going further back than its early settlements and embracing a great deal of national history, and perchance even delving back into realms beyond that.

While it does not come within the scope of this work to dwell at any length upon the evolution of our state from the primal rock, it is necessary to go briefly that far back to correctly start the evolution of Nebraska, or any particular county therein.

Since the discussion of the geological formations of the state and the treatment of its natural resources and features belongs more correctly in the realm of science than of history, only such a treatment of such subjects will be made here as is necessary to carry out the chronology of the development of the state.

#### CREATIVE PERIODS

Of course, the true history of Nebraska begins with the creative formation of this part of the Western Hemisphere that lies within the boundaries of this state. Likewise, the particular county involved most particularly in this narration gains its first sources from the same forces.

In the aeons of time since the Creation, our planet, the Earth, has passed through many marvelous changes. We will make no effort, for it stands to reason that we could not, to define at what particular time the creative forces began their operation on our part of the Earth's surface. It is enough to point out briefly that the story of the Creation, as familiar to all readers of this work, brought forth another planet, the Earth. After countless ages slipped away and the first surface of the Earth, a universal, shoreless ocean, so the scientists tell us, cast forth folds of contracting fire-rock-erect and a surface crust appeared of the first dry land. In the Western World the first lands attributed by some scientists to have appeared were the wedge-shaped Laurentian Highlands, approaching the shores of Hudson Bay, and other strips of land were slowly emerging to the east of the present Appalachians, and also in the western part of the United States stretching from Colorado to California.

#### THE ARCHAIC AGE

It was during this first, or Archaean era, that the process of formation heretofore partially described took place. It was during that period that our globe started from its position as a companion star to the Sun to pass through its cooling process. The basaltic rocks are believed best to represent the physical character of the earth's crust at the beginning of recorded geological history. Some rocks of this epoch are still believed to exist in Canada, 40,000 feet thick, and at least as extensive in the Rocky Mountains and in the Sierras. So far as known, during this period, there was no dry land in Nebraska, but the territory in which we are interested was probably still boundless ocean, so we can pass this period swiftly by.

#### ERAS IN GEOLOGICAL HISTORY

Before passing to the next era in geological history, it is aptly fitting that we pause a moment and define Geology, and briefly list the various geological periods.

Geology has been defined as the poetry and romance of science. That alone would justify us pausing before we come to the more human manifestations of our historical narrative. It reveals the causes that make the prosperity of a region possible. It is the somber, undecorative, but highly essential material foundation to the structure we are going to build and weave in this work. We cannot fundamentally understand the structure of our state without a brief review of this phase of its development.

As now best understood from its rock memorials, to which our scientists turn when making research for this part of our state's history, there have been five great geological eras, viz: The Archaean era, of which we have already briefly made a review; the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic, the Cenozoic, and the Psychozoic.

#### THE PALEOZOIC ERA

This is called the Animal Life era. During this era the areas were gradually enlarged, and myriad forms of strange organisms appeared. Geologists usually divide this aeon into three distinct ages: The Age of Invertebrates—subdivided into the Upper and Lower Silurian eras—when numberless sponges, corals, starfishes, mollusks and other strange animal types dominated the ocean depths, and a few

terrestrial plants appeared; the Age of Fishes, or Devonian era, when the ocean plants swarmed with sharks, gar-pikes and turtle-like placoderms of huge size; and the Carboniferous Age—subdivided into Subcarboniferous, Carboniferous and Permian eras—when coal plants grew and the coal measures were formed.

During neither of the two first named—the age of Invertebrates or Fishes—is land attributed to have formed in the area now occupied by Nebraska. Numerous islands are attributed to have dotted the present states of Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa, so we are fast approaching the beginning of Nebraska. Likewise, we pass by the Subcarboniferous era, but it is in the Carboniferous era that dry land is believed to have appeared in Nebraska. It was one of the most wonderful ages in the history of the globe, for, during its progress, the thickest, most extensive and most valuable of all the coal beds were formed.

A few brief features of this era will be noted.

*Atmosphere.* It has been described thus: "A murky, cloudy atmosphere, surcharged with carbon-dioxide gas, enveloping the earth and giving it a uniform hothouse temperature."

*Physical Surface.* From Pennsylvania to eastern Nebraska and central Kansas, it presented a changing view of vast jungles, lakes with floating grove islands, and some dry-land forests.

#### THE PERMIAN AGE

This was the closing period of the Paleozoic aeon. The greater part of Nebraska was yet a part of the ocean bed, covered by turbulent waters. This age is really a transition period that ushers in the next great age. The Nebraska area formed in this age covers but a few more counties. Near Beatrice are many exposures of yellowish and bluish magnesian limestone, full of geode cavities, lined with calc-spar, indicating the Permian deposits. The Carboniferous Age was brought to a close by an upward movement of the Continent and this continued through the Permian, until much of the surface water was drained, making it impossible to preserve many memorials of its latter history.

#### THE MESOZOIC AGE

This, the age of Middle Life, has also been called the Age of Reptiles, "for never in the history of the earth were reptiles so abundant, of such size and variety, or so highly organized as then." This era included three periods: 1. The *Triassic*, so named for triple rockbeds in Germany; 2. The *Jurassic*, named after the Jura Mountains, in France; and 3. The *Cretaceous*, from the Latin creta, chalk, referring to the formation of large chalk beds in England and Continental Europe.

Early scientists tell us that careful examination fails to disclose the least trace of a Juro-Triassic deposit in Nebraska, so we can rather rapidly pass by this period. The same events that prevented a preservation of distinguishable traces of the Permian would, if continued, prevent the deposition of Triassic and Jurassic rocks here. So we may, in a large degree, be certain that during these periods Nebraska had become an extended land surface, and if so, there must have flourished here for countless centuries the peculiar vegetable and animal life of these times. The length of these periods can be ascertained only relatively. But basing an opinion on the fact that in the Rocky Mountain regions the sediments reach 3,800 feet in thickness—

large portion of which accumulate very slowly—the time involved in the accumulation of sediments in sea bottoms has been variously estimated from one inch to one foot a century, so at even the latter rate, the time involved may have been 315,000 years.

#### THE CRETACEOUS PERIOD

This period marks the beginning of the end of the Mesozoic Era. A general subsidence now set in which seems to have embraced even the Rocky Mountain region. A marine bay broke northward from the Gulf of Mexico, and, before the middle of the period, covered Texas, Indian territory, and part of Kansas, and the western half of Nebraska and even much territory still northwestward. Thus the Rocky Mountain nucleus was again reduced to groups of islands, as in Paleozoic times, and all western Nebraska was once more, though now for the last time, a part of the ocean bed. Toward the latter part of this period the continent began to rise again. During this period of emergence, indeed a great geologic revolution was preparing. The entire Rocky Mountain region was thrown into a series of earth folds, the crust of the mountain system was formed, with a drainage seaward. So Nebraska, from thence on has faced eastward, a part of the continental plain.

The Cretaceous deposits in Nebraska are of vast extent and importance, so we will dwell a little longer upon them than upon some of the preceding periods. For convenience, they have been classified into several groups.

The *Dakota Group*, so named by Hayden, because of its development southwest from Dakota City. It is found mainly in the present counties of Dakota, Wayne, Winnebago, Burt, Washington, Cuming, Stanton, Colfax, Dodge, Sarpy, Saunders, Butler, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, and occasionally in counties bordering on these.

The *Fort Benton Group*. This lies conformably on the Dakota group. A few exposures are present, from which some study of this group has been made. Among these might be mentioned—as seen below the mouth of Iowa Creek, in Dixon County, along the Missouri bluffs, and below Milford, in Seward County, in deep sections.

The *Niobrara Group*, extending from the mouth of the Niobrara River, dipping under the center portion of the state and reappearing again in the southwest, in Harlan County. It is the most extensive of the cretaceous groups in Nebraska. It is evidenced by deposits of impure chalk rock, varying from a grayish white to a pinkish, bluish and yellow hue. These are in evidence especially in Knox, Cedar, and Dixon counties. An impure, yellowish siliceous limestone also evidences in Seward County, near Milford, and in Harlan County.

The *Fort Pierre Group*, lying above the Niobrara deposits, cropping out in Knox County, and other places, among which are as far west as Hitchcock County.

And lastly, the *Laramie Group*, in the southwestern counties of the state. The Laramie Sea extended from southwestern Nebraska over the entire plain region of Colorado, and reached into New Mexico, Wyoming and Dakota territory. The rock of the group is mainly composed of sandstones, shales and clays in Nebraska, but on the other hand this is the great coal-bearing group of the West. The great coal-bearing nature of almost all other parts of this group still fans the hopes of southwestern Nebraska toward the future discovery of coal.

This brings us to the last great aeon in geological history.

## CENOZOIC ERA

The culmination of those physical changes that had been in progress during the whole of the latter portion of the cretaceous period inaugurated the Cenozoic Age. This age, or the Age of Mammals, is divided into two periods:—*Tertiary* and the *Quaternary*.

The *Tertiary Age* embraces three epochs, the *Eocene*, the *Miocene*, and the *Pliocene*. Of these only the latter two are represented in Nebraska. The period of marine waters over western Nebraska was now past. The Rocky Mountain revolution, heretofore referred to, had left the Great Plains a part of the continent. But this plain was yet very near sea level, as evidenced plainly by the vast lakes of fresh water found both east and west of the Rocky Mountains. As stated above, there are no evidences of deposits of the Eocene epoch in Nebraska. The vegetable life of the Tertiary Age carried forward somewhat in advance of the periods heretofore described. Lesquereux has described forty-six species of plants, among which were giant cedars, cottonwoods, elders, birch, oaks, figs, magnolias and walnuts. It will be observed that some of these still belonged to warmer climates than we know of in modern Nebraska. The animal life of this period was distinctly mammalian. In the deposits evidencing the Tertiary Age, most wonderful remains of these animals are found by scientific researchers.

The *Miocene Tertiary Epoch* was a gradual shading from the preceding era. Conditions changed considerably during the Miocene times; for then a fresh water lake, or series of lakes, covered the western part of the state, receiving the drainage of the rivers that now have their outlet in the Missouri. Into this lake bed were carried broken down materials from the Rocky Mountain axis and the Black Hills, and from the higher lying Juro-Triassic and Cretaceous deposits. Hither, too, were gathered, as in a vast cemetery, remnants of all the vegetable and animal life of the epoch. A gradual uplifting of strata has left these lake bottoms high and dry. Erosion too has changed their contour much, accounting for many deep valleys, cliffs and buttes in endless variety in a non-mountainous country as Nebraska.

“The *Mauvais Terres* of the French trapper, or ‘Bad Lands,’ are clearly defined in the White River country of northwestern Nebraska, and cover hundreds of square miles of southwestern South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming. All through that region the story of the past is told in most forceful language. Banks full of fossil bones, baccolites, huge petrified tortoises, and fossil leaves tell how Nebraska looked in those times. Magnolias, oaks, palms, figs, maples, lindens and pines grew in wild luxuriance, and the giant sequoias of California grew on every hill. Drove of Miocene horses frequented the lake shores, the ancestral hog wallowed in the bogs, flocks of monkeys chattered in the treetops, and plain and forest were the haunt and breeding ground of drove of huge mastodons and wicked-eyed rhinoceroes and tapirs. Such were then the *Ma-koo-si-tcha*, or hard lands to travel over, as the Sioux nomad has seen fit to designate these regions.”

The *Pliocene Epoch* of the Tertiary Age is marked by a general enlargement of the old Miocene lake bed, particularly eastward and southwestward. This strata so outreaches the Miocene area that it overlies the Cretaceous in some central counties of the state. Much of the pliocene material is exceedingly coarse. Beds of conglomerate rocks made up of “waterworn pebbles, feldspar and quartz in masses,

and some small pieces or chips of all the Archaean rocks" overlie beds of much worn sandstones and clays.

*Sandhills.* In many parts of the north central and northwestern Nebraska the upper beds have become decomposed and an immense amount of fine sand of a more or less stable nature has heaped up to form the famous "sand hills." Beneath lie strata of compacted gravel, then come limestone formations, yellow grits and layers of many colored sands and clays.

The *Quaternary Period* of the Pliocene Epoch brought a great change over the earth. In Nebraska lakebeds gradually drained out, and the semi-tropical conditions heretofore referred to began to change and fade away. Arctic conditions began to invade from the north, extending into what is now the North Temperate zone and pushing both fauna and flora equatorward. The Quaternary Period brought on the Glacial Period. For reasons more scientific than historical, the temperature of North America gradually fell so low that the snows of winter accumulated too rapidly for the summer's warmth to remove. The result was a glaciation of vast land areas.

The *Glacial Period.* A great ice sheet, formed by its own weight, slowly moved southward, enfolding the earth in its embrace. A thick mantle of ice extended south of the southern line of Nebraska, and according to Agassiz, at one time to the 36th parallel.

Traces of the ice movements are abundant. Along the Missouri River wherever the superficial deposits are removed the underlying limestone beds are worn smooth as glass and are full of glacial scratches and flutings. Indications are that such a drift covered at least the eastern one-third of the state. Here are found the beds of blue clay so characteristic of this period; and in strata above these, drift gravel and clay; and next above, gravel and water worn boulders of various size.

After countless ages of polar winter an era of general subsidence took place in the glaciated regions; through a great mass of general humidity, the ice mantle began to melt and recede. Immense floods raged in the valleys and the continent from the glacier edge to the gulf was converted into an inland sea, full of floating icebergs, which drifting aimlessly about, when they melted, dropped their immense loads of sand, gravel and boulders to the lake bottoms. These floods are reputed to have covered all of Nebraska except the Miocene beds of the White River region and the western uplands and a few of the highest crests of the Pliocene deposits, which lay too high to be reached by the engulfing waters. The Miocene or Pliocene formations, known to us by such names as Scott's Bluffs or Chimney Rock, must, in those times, have been so many islands set in a turbulent sea.

The *Loess Period* followed the Glacial Period. It is claimed that during this melting period the Loup Valley of Central Nebraska was submerged entirely, and received the loess-clay deposits which have made it one of the most fertile regions in the state. The Loess deposits first received this name in America from Lyell, who observed them along the Mississippi in various places. The name had been used before in Europe to designate such materials in the valleys of the Rhine and Danube. Hayden called them bluff deposits, because of the peculiar configuration they give to the uplands that border the flood plains of the rivers. This deposit, not particularly rich in organic remains, but in some respects one of the most remarkable in the world, prevails over something like three-fourths of the surface of Nebraska. It ranges in thickness from 5 to 150 feet. Even at North Platte, 300 miles west of



the Missouri, on the south side of the river, it varies in thickness from 125 to 150 feet.

From the foregoing pages it will be noted in Nebraska that formations older than the Pliocene are nowhere exposed excepting the Miocene deposits in the "Bad Lands" of the Northwest. Up to this point, the narrative of the formation of the structure of our state has taken in account nothing concerning the presence of the human race within the confines of Nebraska.

The foregoing geological review has been designed mainly to serve as a pictorial panorama of the evolution of the physical "territory" now Nebraska. Most of the statements made have been based upon the earliest geological observations of Prof. Samuel Aughey and his associates, of a period of forty years ago. In the intervening forty years, with the increasing facilities for research, Prof. E. H. Barbour, Prof. Geo. E. Condra and other geological students of Nebraska have made many new discoveries, and have in some instances discovered evidences which lead to vastly different conclusions in relation to the location, initial appearance or manner of discovery of certain geological evidences, heretofore mentioned. The final results of these studies and changes and detailed observations from a practical viewpoint have been incorporated in "*The Soil Survey.*"

It is purposed now, to make a short statement of the purposes of the soil survey, and to incorporate at this point a part of the final findings of Nebraska's students of this phase of the state's life. This portion is furnished by The Nebraska Conservation and Welfare Commission (Bulletins 14 and 15, 1920). While this is also a slight departure from the historical narrative, it will serve for valuable practical purposes to many readers of this work.

#### THE SOIL SURVEY AND ITS USE

A considerable part of Nebraska has been covered by soil surveys made by state and federal departments. Persons dealing in real estate or expecting to buy land in Nebraska will find useful information in the various county reports.

Information regarding the surveys can be secured from the Conservation and Soil Survey Department of The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, or from the U. S. Bureau of Soils, Washington, D. C.

Soil the Greatest Natural Resource. Most Nebraska soils are deep, fertile, stone-free and easily tilled. Practically no artificial fertilizer is used. Humus is replenished in crop rotation by growing legumes. These unusually favorable conditions, as compared with most states, are not as fully appreciated as they should be by those who own Nebraska land.

Importance of Subsoil. Land sales should be made on a basis of careful examination and report. More care should be used here than in buying a house or some security.

#### THE SOIL RESOURCES AND REGIONS OF NEBRASKA

By G. E. Condra, Director Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey

Nebraska is large and diverse. The area is 77,510 square miles. The altitude ranges between about 840 feet in the southeastern corner of Richardson County and 5,340 in the western part of Banner County. Surface features vary from

smooth plains to mountainous areas. There are more than 100 soils which constitute the state's most important resource. Persons wishing a fuller or more extended discussion of soil resources of the state should secure soil bulletin 15 of the Conservation and Soil Survey.

On a basis of soil and topography, Nebraska has three well defined regions—the Loess, Sandhill, and High Plains.

#### LOESS REGION

This region, so named on account of its subsoil, occupies about 42,000 square miles, or more than the southeast half of the state. It is a well-developed agricultural region.

The loess is well shown in many railroad cuts and excavations as at Omaha, Plattsmouth, and Nebraska City. There are three kinds, known as the plains, terrace, and bluff loesses. The deposits occur throughout the uplands of the Loess Region, except on the drift hills.

The loess is generally, but erroneously, known as "yellow clay." Technically, it is mostly silt, containing some clay and fine sand. It is a silt loam. The most distinguishing features are the buff color, massive appearance, fine texture, and ability to stand vertically in bluffs and exposures. Loess forms the most even-textured, deep, fertile subsoil of our country.

The Loess Region has eight kinds of land, known as loess plains, loess hills, drift hills, bluff lands, canyon areas, bench lands, flood plains or bottom lands proper, and small areas of wind-formed hills.

Loess Plains, or the nearly level uplands of the region, have an area of about 14,100 square miles. The largest and most typical plain is between Gosper and Saunders counties. Its boundaries are the Platte, Republican, and Big Blue valleys. The surface of this plain is quite even, but modified to some extent by small drainage-ways, shallow basins, and low knolls. Some of the typical locations on this plain are David City, Fairmont and Holdrege.

Smaller loess plains are located north of Ogallala, south of the Platte Valley at Sutherland, in southwestern Lincoln County, southeastern Chase County, northeastern Dundy, southern Frontier, southwestern and southeastern Custer, part of the upland between Broken Bow and Sargent, northern Buffalo, small areas north of Ravenna, six miles south of North Loup, the upland between St. Paul and Boelus, west of Wolbach, southwest of Spalding, and the nearly flat uplands of Boone, Madison, Wayne, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Washington, and other northeastern counties. Several loess plains occur east of the Big Blue, as in eastern Seward, northern Gage, southern Lancaster, central Cass and eastern Johnson counties.

All of the above plains are capped with 25 to 100 feet of loess subsoil. The land is stone free and very easy to till. The main crops are wheat, oats, alfalfa, and corn. The country is most beautiful. There are endless views of improved farms and towns. Land values range between \$100 and \$500 per acre depending on the position, amount of rainfall, and improvements. For further information in regard to the loess plains consult the soil surveys of Fillmore, Dodge and Phelps counties.

Loess Hill Areas. These, with an area of about 11,900 square miles, occupy the northeastern counties of the state and a narrow strip just west of the bluff belt of the Missouri farther south.

Some of the river bluffs are quite high, as along the Missouri. From the top downward they contain loess, drift, and bedrock. The mantle rock materials dislodge from the steep slopes making land slides below and vertical walls above. The bluff land belts are cut by many deep ravines and small valleys and further modified by numerous ridges and spurs. As a whole, the topography is rough. The principal soil is the Knox silt loam.

**Canyon Areas.** These have a combined area of about 1,500 square miles in the western part of the Loess Region. Here the rough, steep sided valleys, called canyons, separate the upland into flats. Canyon areas occur in parts of Lincoln, Hayes, Frontier, Hitchcock, Gosper, Dawson, and Custer counties. Small slips or land slides are common in canyons having sides not so steep, and in places the flat divides have been eroded away leaving areas of bold hills separated by V-shaped canyons.

Much of the soil of the canyon areas is used for grazing. The small, flat divides are farmed to wheat, oats, rye, corn, kafir, cane, etc.

**The Waukesha** soils occupy most of the benches in the central and eastern counties, but are modified by small patches of basin soils of heavier texture and knolls having soils of lighter texture.

Sand is exposed along the edges of some terraces. This sand mixes with the silt from above or washes out upon the valley floor making fine sandy loams. Persons wishing descriptions of the bench land soils should consult the surveys of Saunders, Dodge, Douglas, Wayne and other counties.

The bench lands of Nebraska have high value because of their fertility and freedom from overflows. They are well suited to grain farming and especially well adapted to alfalfa raising.

**Bottom or Alluvial Lands** are well defined in all river valleys and in most creek valleys of the Loess Region. The total area of such land, including flood plains, alluvial fans, colluvial slopes, and the poorly defined, low benches, is about 3,750 square miles.

Several alluvial soils have been mapped. Among them are those of the Wabash, Cass, Sarpy, Hall, Lamoure, and Judson series. Descriptions of these series may be found in the soil surveys of Washington, Nemaha, Richardson, Douglas, Wayne, Dodge, Gage, Polk, Fillmore, Hall, Phelps, and other counties.

**The Wabash silt loam,** silty clay loam, and clay are common alluvial soils in the eastern part of the region. They are close textured, dark colored and unusually deep as shown on the flood plains of the Big Nemaha, Little Nemaha, Weeping Water, Salt Creek, Maple Creek, and Logan Creek, and most of the Big Blue and its tributaries. There are considerable areas of these soils in the Platte, Elkhorn, and Missouri River valleys. As a whole, the Wabash soils are very fertile. They are generally farmed to corn rotated with small grain. Drainage is required at places.

**The Cass series,** represented by five types, is black in the surface layer, brownish to grayish in the upper subsoil and underlain by a thick layer of sand. These soils are productive.

**The Lamoure soils,** represented by three types mapped along the Platte in Dodge, Polk, Hall, and Phelps counties, resemble those of the Wabash series, but are less perfectly drained. They have a calcareous subsoil, which is lighter in color than that of the Wabash series.

**The Judson silt loam** occurs as small areas principally on colluvial slopes at

the foot of uplands and terraces in various parts of Dodge, Hall, Polk and Phelps counties and is not subject to flooding. It is deep, dark brown and contains considerable humus.

There are a number of other alluvial soils in the principal valleys of the Loess Region. As a rule, they become more sandy and carry less humus as one goes westward. The sandy soils are well suited to grazing and hay production and those of finer textures are well adapted to farming.

Wind-formed areas occur at various places along the western border of the Loess Region and at a few places on the loess plains proper. They are represented by choppy hills resembling dunes and occupy about 900 square miles.

In a general way, the larger wind-formed areas are a broader land between the loess and sandhill regions. Their soils vary in texture but are composed largely of sand and silt. The largest areas of these soils are north and northeast of Minden; east of Hildreth; north of Grand Island; in western Boone County; eastern Wheeler County; northwest of Greeley; northeastern Lincoln County; on the upland south of North Platte; ten miles southwest of Maywood, and at the east border of the sandhills in Dundy County. The land is used for grazing, production of native hay and for farming.

#### SANDHILL REGION

This is the best defined soil region in Nebraska. The topography, drainage, soils and roads are very unlike those of the Loess Region to the east and the high plains on the west.

The main body of the sandhills, in the north-central and central western parts of the state is known as the Sandhill Region. There are several outlying areas, making in all about 20,000 square miles, occupied by hills, basins, valleys, marshes, and lakes.

The soils of the sandhill areas are quite sandy as a rule. They correlate with the land forms and are herein described as dunesand, dry valley soils, and wet valley soils.

Dunesand is the typical soil of the sandhills. It occupies about two-thirds of the area of the region and is characterized by its mobility, low humus content, and uniform fine sandy texture. There is little difference between surface soil and subsoil. Both are light gray in color and of loose structure. They contain a very low percentage of silt and clay. The hill land, valued at from \$8 to \$20 an acre, is used nearly wholly for grazing.

The State Survey classifies the hills under two divisions—first grade and second grade, depending upon the continuity of the grass cover and the amount of blow ground.

Plains. The most distinctive feature is the high plains, hence the name now used. The smooth uplands are used for farming and grazing. Much of the valley land is irrigated.

The largest natural divisions of the High Plains Region are Perkins Plains, 1,650 square miles; Cheyenne Table, 3,275; Pumpkin Creek Valley, 455; Wildcat Ridge, 151; North Platte Valley, 1,100; Box Butte Table, 2,010; Niobrara Valley, 210 (western part); Dawes Table, 1,400; Pine Ridge, 500; Hat Creek Basin, 390; White River Basin, 862; Springview Table, 612; Ainsworth Table, 284, and Holt Plain, 1,400.

Perkins Plain is in Perkins, Chase, and Keith counties and northeastern Colorado, but has its most typical development in the northeastern part of Perkins County, Nebraska. It is bordered on the north by South Platte Valley, and on the east and south by sandhill and loess areas. The surface varies from nearly level to rough and is modified by a few sandhills. (See Chase County Soil Survey.)

The soils of Perkins Plain are used for grazing and farming. The more sandy types, because of blowing, are devoted to grazing. Dry farming is practiced generally on the more stable soils. Wheat, rye, oats, kafir, corn, etc., are the main crops. Land values range between \$15 and more than \$100 an acre.

Cheyenne Table is bordered on the north by the Pumpkin Creek and North Platte valleys and extends southward to and beyond Lodgepole Creek and the Colorado line. Much of the surface is a smooth table land, but some of it is undulating to rolling and rough. The eastern part, a spur between the Platte valleys, is capped with loess. The rest of the area, except on the valley floors, has residual soils.

The leading soil series on the table land is the Rosebud, represented by five types ranging between the silt loam and the gravelly sandy loam. The Kimball County survey classes these soils with the Sidney series, a name which has been discontinued. (See Cheyenne County Soil Survey.)

Some of the steep slopes of Cheyenne Table have stony outcrops. The slopes, as along the Lodgepole, have sandy soils classed with the Cheyenne series. Similar materials occur in many sand draws. Finer textured soils of the Tripp series occur on the low terraces, principally in Lodgepole Valley. The bottom land soils proper of the valley are classed with the Laurel series. They have a light to pale yellow surface layer and a coarse, calcareous subsoil. Persons wishing a description of Cheyenne Table should secure the soil reports of Kimball, Cheyenne, and Morrill counties.

Certain soils in Cheyenne Table have been farmed successfully for a number of years, as in the vicinity of Dalton. The drouthy soils are best suited to grazing. Here, as elsewhere, the farmer should select a farm on a basis of the soils and climate.

Land values for Cheyenne Table range between \$35 and \$150 an acre. Wheat, oats, corn, cane, and potatoes are the principal crops. There is successful irrigation on higher priced land in Lodgepole Valley.

Pumpkin Creek Valley, between Cheyenne Table and Wildeat Ridge, is tributary to the North Platte Valley. It is bordered by escarpment-like walls throughout most of its course, but is open near the Wyoming line and at the point of junction with the Platte.

Long slopes are a feature of the valley floor. These are of two kinds, those formed by the weathering and erosion of the underlying Brule clay, and those built up of colluvial materials. The Brule clay slopes are rounded and billowy. They are eroded as small badlands at places. The colluvial slopes, occurring south of the creek in the eastern part of the valley, are comparatively smooth and terrace-like. The bottom lands of the valley consist of the flood plains bordering Pumpkin Creek and its tributaries, and of low terraces.

There are a number of soils in Pumpkin Creek Valley. Those with largest distribution are classed with the Epping, Bridgeport, Tripp, and Laurel series. The Epping silt loam was developed upon the Brule clay. It grades within a few

inches from the yellowish-brown surface soil to the undisturbed Brule clay. The soils on the colluvial slopes are classed with the Bridgeport series represented principally by fine sandy loam and very fine sandy loam, but there are small areas of fine sand. These soils drain well and are easily worked, but are subject to blowing where light textured.

The Tripp soils occur on the benches, and range between the very fine sandy loam and fine sand. The drainage is good and most of the soil is suited for farming. The Laurel soils occur on the first bottoms of the trunk and tributary streams.

The soils of Pumpkin Creek Valley are described in the Survey reports of Scotts Bluff, Banner and Morrill counties and in the Reconnaissance Soil Survey of western Nebraska, which may be secured from the U. S. Bureau of Soils, Washington. The absence of a railroad in the valley has retarded development. The rough and sandy lands are grazed but much of the rest of the area is dry farmed and irrigated. Land values range between \$10 and about \$125 an acre.

Wildcat Ridge is between Pumpkin Creek and North Platte valleys. It begins near the eastern end of 66-Mountain at the Wyoming line and extends eastward and southeastward about 50 miles, ending in Court House and Jail Rock south of Bridgeport. It rises from 400 to 700 feet above the bordering valleys in most of its course, but lowers eastward. Three prominent spurs project northward and northeastward toward the Platte ending in Scotts Bluff Mountain, Castle Rock, and Chimney Rock. A spur extending southward ends in Hog Back Mountain and Wildcat Mountain. Among the features of Wildcat Ridge are Signal Butte, altitude 4,583 feet; Bald Peak, 4,420 feet; Scotts Bluff Mountain, 4,662 feet; Hog Back Mountain, 5,082 feet; and Court House Rock, 4,100 feet. Wildcat Ridge is scenic because of its relief, topography and pine forest.

Much of Wildcat Ridge is rough broken land thinly covered with grass, shrubs, and pines. The less abrupt parts are occupied by the Rosebud stony fine sand and the more gradual slopes by the Rosebud loamy fine sand. Most of the soil is used for grazing. Some is farmed.

North Platte Valley is Nebraska's most important irrigation country. The soils, topography, climate, and water supply support irrigation on a large scale.

The valley is wide between the Wyoming line and the eastern part of Morrill County, beyond which it is narrow to the point of union with the South Platte. The upper parts of the valley sides are steep, stony land. Sandhills border the north side between Oshkosh and North Platte. The rough stony land on the south gives way below Lawellen to loess bluffs. One feature of the valley is a large terrace on the north between the Wyoming line and northwest of Bridgeport. A long, bench-like colluvial slope forms the south side of most of the valley in Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties. The flood plain proper has a considerable area of silt loam to sandy and gravelly soils, part of which is poorly drained.

There are several soils in the North Platte Valley, varying from silt loam to the nearly barren slopes of the rough broken land. The soils with largest distribution are classed with the Epping, Mitchell, Bridgeport, Tripp, Laurel, and Minatare series, which are described in the soil surveys of Scotts Bluff and Morrill counties. Much of the agricultural land is farmed under irrigation and valued at \$150 to \$500 an acre. There is intensive farming of the best land. Among the main crops are beets, alfalfa, wheat, oats, rye, corn, and potatoes. Vegetables and fruit

of several kinds are grown. There are a number of good towns and cities in the valley served by the Burlington and Union Pacific railroads.

Box Butte Table is between the North Platte and Niobrara valleys and bordered on the east by the Sandhill Region. The surface of the table ranges from nearly flat to undulating, rolling and rough, and is modified at places by small sandhill areas. The borders near the Platte and Niobrara are roughened by numerous ravines and canyons.

The soils of Box Butte Table are classed with the Rosebud, Dunlap, Yale, Tripp, Laurel, and Valentine series. The Rosebud and Dunlap soils are similar to those of Cheyenne Table. (See soil survey of Box Butte County.)

The Rosebud soils are scattered generally, but the Dunlap silt loam occurs principally to the west and southwest of Hemingford. It has a brown to dark brown surface soil 6 to 12 inches deep, underlain by a dark brown compact heavy silt loam which passes gradually through a grayish-brown, heavy silt loam into a light, floury calcareous silt loam. The type occupies high, flat areas.

High terraces in the vicinity of Alliance are capped with the Yale silt loam and very fine sandy loam which carry considerable clay. The low terraces of Snake Creek Valley are covered with the Tripp very fine sandy loam.

The Valentine loamy fine sand occurs in the southern and eastern parts of Box Butte County. The principal soils on the bottom land of Snake Creek are the Laurel silt loam and fine sandy loam. They are poorly drained and alkali in spots.

The Box Butte soils are used extensively for grazing and dry farming. They grow large yields of wheat, corn and potatoes. Land values are a little lower than on Cheyenne Table.

Niobrara Valley has three distinct courses or divisions in Nebraska. Two of them separate parts of the High Plains, and the third division is in the northern part of the Sandhill Region. The western course of the valley lies between Box Butte and Dawes tables. It is narrow and bordered by rough lands near the Wyoming line, but widens considerably across Sioux, Dawes, and Box Butte counties where there are bold, rounded grass covered slopes and some broken stony land. The soil with largest distribution on the valley sides is the shallow phase of the Rosebud very fine sandy loam underlain with sand and stone. The valley floor is divided between low benches and the flood plain proper. The benches are occupied principally by the Tripp sandy loam and some fine sandy loam. The first bottom soils are the Laurel fine sandy loam and very fine sandy loam.

Much of the western part of the Niobrara Valley is grazed. Parts are dry farmed and irrigated.

The sandhill course of the Niobrara Valley is narrow and deep and closely bordered by sandhills and stony land.

The lower course of the valley which is east of Valentine is narrow U-shaped to V-shaped. The slopes east of Keyapaha and Rock counties are more gradual and occupied in most of their parts by the Pierre shale, which forms a very heavy soil similar to that of the northern parts of Hat Creek and White River basins, but occurring under a heavier rainfall.

The Pierre clay soils extend into the Ponca Creek Valley as far west as the town of Butte. They occupy much of the slopes bordering the Niobrara in Boyd and Knox counties.

Dawes Table extends through Sioux, Dawes, and Sheridan counties. It is between Niobrara Valley and Pine Ridge, but is not distinctly set off from the latter. The surface grades from a typical table in Dawes County to a rolling surface in Sheridan and Sioux counties. Some parts are badly dissected.

The soils of Dawes Table are classed with the Rosebud and Dunlap series and resemble those of Box Butte and Cheyenne tables. The Rosebud very fine sandy loam and a shallow phase of the type occupy much of the rolling land. The Dunlap silt loam is on the flat table. Much of the table is successfully dry farmed to wheat, rye, corn, and potatoes. Lands are advancing in value.

Pine Ridge is a mountainous country of irregular form, which in a general way lies between Dawes Table, Hat Creek, and White River basins. It was eroded of the High Plains. The north face of Pine Ridge is very steep at most places. It contains deep canyons, prominent cliffs, and long steep slopes. There are two escarpments or cliff elements in this face of the ridge, one of them lying just below the table land level and the other coming down to the borders of Hat Creek and White River basins. There are a number of park land areas between these rough parts of Pine Ridge.

Much of the Pine Ridge country is covered with scattered pine trees. The steeper slopes are bare and the more gradual ones are grass covered. Parts of the park land are farmed. Soils range between stony land and the Rosebud very fine sandy loam.

Hat Creek Basin occupies the extreme northwestern part of the state and extends into South Dakota. It slopes away from Pine Ridge. The southern part of the basin is composed of long rounded slopes and low butte-like forms. The soils of this division are classed under two series, Dawes and Epping. They form the so-called yellow gumbo belt, which is less heavy than the name would indicate. The soils range between silt loam and fine sandy loam.

The northern part of Hat Creek Basin is occupied by billowy hills developed on the Pierre shale. The soils range between clay and a clay loam. They are dark gray to brownish, quite thin at places, become very sticky when wet, and hard when dry.

Much of Hat Creek Basin is gravel. Some is dry farmed and small areas are irrigated. Land values are held back because of inadequate transportation facilities.

White River Basin is bordered on the south and west by the steep slopes of Pine Ridge, from which open many small valleys. The lower slopes of the ridge are long and billowy. They were formed on the Brule clay and part of the soil is classed as Epping silt loam. The more gradual slopes have a deep silt loam soil with a heavy middle layer. This type is called the Dawes silt loam. The two soils just named form a belt which reaches northward to White River in most of Dawes County and follows northwestward around the edge of Pine Ridge on the west. These soils become slippery, but not very muddy, when wet. They are grazed and successfully dry farmed.

The northern part of White River Basin is the well-known dark gumbo land formed on Pierre shale. The soil is very heavy and sticky when wet. Much of it is grazed, some is farmed, principally to small grains.

The valleys of White River Basin have narrow flood plains and bench lands. The bench land soils, which range between silt loam and fine sandy loam, are dry farmed and irrigated.



Springview Table is in Keyapaha County, but extends short distances in Cherry and Boyd counties. Its surface is divided between hard smooth land, rough broken land, loose sandy soil, and small dunesand areas. Much of the hard land contains gravel at or near the surface. This table is grazed and dry farmed. Its isolated position is a drawback.

Ainsworth Table, in northern Brown County, is nearly surrounded by sandhills. The surface is smooth to rough and divided between hard land and small areas of dunesand and Valentine soils. The soil with the largest distribution is the Rosebud fine sandy loam. A small area of silty clay occurs east of Bassett. Ainsworth Table is used for pasturage, the production of native hay and for farming. It is well developed at places. Much prairie hay is produced here.

Holt Plain, in northern Holt County, and southwestern Knox County, is the easternmost area of the High Plains Region. It is quite smooth on the upland proper, but rough near Brush, Eagle, Bird and Verdigre creeks. Most of the plain is hard land, but parts are sandy.

The soils with largest distribution are known as O'Neill loam, O'Neill gravelly loam and Valentine sand. Sandy soils, which blow, occur in the north and north-eastern parts of the plain.

The O'Neill loam is a dark gray to brown loam about 10 inches deep, underlain by 10 to 15 inches of light yellowish-brown clay loam, below which is a thick bed of sand and gravel. The gravelly loam type has a thin surface soil and coarse subsoil.

In recent years, most of the best land of Holt Plain has come under successful cultivation. Some of the land has advanced to more than \$150 an acre. Wheat, corn, oats and native hay are the main crops.

In Nebraska there has been found, indeed, many traces of a pre-glacial race of man. Discoveries of stone implements, and then chiefly flint arrow heads and spear-heads have been made deep, in undisturbed loess beds, side by side with bones of the mastodon and the huge elk of this period. So we may well presume that man roamed the Nebraska plains ages before the advent of the long glacial winter.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES

Before passing to a further review of the development, and especially of the populating, of Nebraska, we may well pause for a brief survey of her natural physical features.

##### LOCATION

Nebraska, the Land of Shallow Water, lies at the geographical center of the United States, and is bounded by parallels 40° and 43' North and longitude 95° 20' on east and 104° west. The extreme length of the state from east to west is 420 miles, and its breadth from north to south is 208.5 miles. In area it comprises 77,510 square miles, or 49,606,400 acres, of which nearly 500,000 acres represent water.

##### ALTITUDES

The state stretches from the foothills of the Rockies to the Missouri, having a gentle, gradual eastward slope. The western half averages more than 2,500 feet above the sea, to only 1,200 in the eastern half.

The highest point of elevation in the state is in northwestern Kimball County, at 5,300 feet. Scotts Bluff reaches fully 6,000 feet in height, while Richardson County is only 878 feet above the sea.

#### RIVERS

Nebraska is drained entirely by the Missouri and its tributaries. In contrast to the past geological times, there are no large lakes in Nebraska, though there are many small lakes. Many springs, wells and artesian wells dot various parts of the state. A remarkable artesian well of Nebraska is the one in the public square of Lincoln, 1,050 feet deep. At between 70 and 250 deep, strong brine was encountered, but it did not come to the surface. At 560 feet, saline water came up in a powerful current. Saline springs have been encountered, especially around Lincoln and in its neighboring county, Seward.

The *Missouri River*. Not only is this one of the chief rivers of the Republic, but by all means the chief river of Nebraska. Rising in Montana, at the eastern edge, and traversing North and South Dakota, it comes to the north state line of Nebraska at a point approximately one hundred miles west of the east side of the state, and forming the entire eastern border of the state, borders Nebraska for something like 500 miles. It is deep and rapid. Its bed is moving sand, mud and alluvium, and nowhere in its Nebraska career has it a rock bottom. Professor Samuel Aughey, Professor of Natural Sciences in University of Nebraska, in the early '80s, had described this stream:—

"Its immediate banks, sometimes on both, and almost always on one side, are steep, often, indeed, perpendicular or leaning over toward the water. It is generally retreating or advancing from or on to one or other shore. It is the shore from which it is retreating that is sometimes gently sloping, while the one toward which it is advancing is steep. This steepness is produced by the undermining of the banks and the caving in that follows. Near the bottom there is a stratum of sand, which, being struck by the current, is washed out and the bank falls in. Many acres in some places have been carried away in a single season. The principal part of this 'cutting' is done while the river is falling. When the river is low and winding through bottoms fringed with, in many places, dark groves of cottonwood and other timber, it is a sad, melancholy, weird stream. When it is on a 'big rise' however, and presses forward with tremendous volume and force toward the Gulf, it becomes surpassingly grand and majestic. It is now full of eddies and whole trees that have been dragged forward at a fearful velocity. It is never fordable. Boats of various kinds were exclusively used for crossing the river until the advent of the railroad bridges at Omaha and Plattsmouth. The water is always muddy or full of finely comminuted sand, the current rapid and full of whirling eddies. It is a dangerous stream to trifle with. So well understood, however, is this feature of the Missouri, that no more persons are drowned in it than in other rivers of corresponding size. \* \* \* Had it not been for the Missouri, the settlement of this region would have been indefinitely delayed. As the Missouri is navigable for 2,000 miles above Omaha, it was a great highway for traffic with the mountain regions of the Dakotas and Montana. Since the building of railroads, its business has fallen off."

The *Platte River* is the next river in importance to the Missouri. Its head-

waters originate in the mountains, and some of them in lakes fed by the ever-lasting snows. By the time it reaches Nebraska it is broad, shallow, sandy, but still flows with a rapid current. It flows through the whole length of the state. It is not navigable, but has been bridged at all of the important towns along its course. The south fork, commonly called the South Platte, enters the state from Colorado and flows eastward to North Platte at which point it joins the north fork, called the North Platte, which comes in from Wyoming, near latitude 42. There is usually a good volume of water in the stream, though at times of low water it can be forded. The average volume of water at North Platte is greater than at its mouth, but its various tributaries, Elkhorn, Papillion, Shell Creek, Loup and Wood rivers bring in a new supply.

The *Republican River*, the next important stream, rises in the Colorado plains near Range 49 of Sixth Principal Meridian west. At the state line, it is only a few feet across. Seven miles east it picks up Arickaree, and becomes shallow, sandy, and in places rapid. Various tributaries then joining it are: Frenchman's fork, near Culbertson; Driftwood Creek, near McCook; Sappa Creek, near Orleans; Beaver Creek, near Orleans; the latter three coming from the southwest; Red Willow and Medicine creeks come in from the northwest. An immense number of creeks flow in every few miles especially from the north. It might be noted that the general level of the Republican River is approximately 350 feet below that of the Platte. This descent from the Platte gives the Republican the natural drainage of the intervening territory. This river, unlike the Platte, increases regularly in breadth and volume from its source to its exit from the state in Nuckolls County, slightly over a hundred miles west of the southeastern corner of the state. It comes in from Kansas and goes back into Kansas.

The *Niobrara River* also flows almost entirely across the state, coming in from Wyoming and entering the Missouri River near the town of Niobrara. From its source to its mouth it is 460 miles long. Its source is 5,100 feet above sea level. It is very narrow at its entrance into the state, but gradually widens. For 189 miles it continues through a canyon of high and steep walls. Upon emergence from this canyon, it becomes a broad, rapid and sandy stream. It has some tributaries of importance. First, on the south side is the Verdigris, in Knox County, and joins the Niobrara six miles from its mouth. There are a great many small tributaries between the Verdigris and the Keya Paha. Snake River, joining in Cherry County is the next important tributary. The Keya Paha, coming in from the north, is about 125 miles long.

The White River flows through northwestern Nebraska. It comes in from Wyoming and flows northeasterward, entering South Dakota a little east of longitude 103. It has many small tributaries in its course through the corner of Nebraska.

The *Elkhorn River* is a very beautiful river. It rises west of Holt County. In the region of its source, the valley widens to a very great breadth, and in that vicinity are many small fresh-water lakes. Within a certain region, eighteen by twelve miles square, there are at least twenty of these lakelets, most of which drain into the head waters of the West Fork of the Elkhorn. In the eastern border of Madison County this stream receives the North Branch of the Elkhorn, which rises in the southern part of Knox County. That fork originates in a region of innumerable small springs. The Elkhorn empties into the Platte in the western

part of Sarpy County. Its most important tributary is the Logan, which rises principally in Cedar County. This river is a family of branches so numerous it is hard to distinguish which is the main river. A junction is finally formed with the Elkhorn in eastern Dodge County.

The *Loup Rivers*, form the other important tributary of the Platte, not heretofore mentioned. The whole length of the Middle, or main Loup, approximates 250 miles. It rises a little east of the 102 parallel and fifty miles from the north line of the state. Leaving Cherry County, it traverses Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, northeastern Custer, southwestern corner of Valley, Sherman, Howard, Nance and Platte counties. Its first important tributary is Beaver Creek and then *Cedar River*, which starts up in Garfield County comes on down through Wheeler and Boone counties to its junction in Nance County.

The *North Loup River* rises from a small cluster of lakes, a little east of the 101 Meridian and 45 miles from the north line of the state, in Cherry County. This region is likewise studded with small, but beautiful lakes. Calamus Creek, which joins the North Loup in Garfield County, near Burwell, is the first important tributary. The entire length of this Loup until its junction with the main or Middle Loup is about 150 miles. Professor Aughey remarked some forty years ago: "Perhaps there is no more interesting and beautiful valley in all Nebraska than the North Loup. Corn and the cereal grains, as elsewhere in the state, are most successfully cultivated."

On the south side of the Main or Middle Loup, the main tributaries are Mud Creek, which rises at Broken Bow and runs down into Buffalo County, and the *South Loup*. The latter rises in Logan County, just west of the border of Custer County, and traverses that great county, on across wide Buffalo County, and joins the Middle Loup in Howard County. The Loup Rivers have a wonderful rush of waters that have led to their being pronounced by able authorities as among the greatest potential electro-hydro producers in the country.

The *Nemahas* early became noted rivers in Nebraska. The north branch of the Nemaha runs in a southeasterly direction diagonally through Johnson and Richardson counties, until it unites with the main river in that county. Its length is about 60 miles and it increases regularly in size.

The main Nemaha rises in Pawnee County, takes a southerly direction into Kansas, then turns northeast into Richardson County and then flows a little south of east, until it unites with the Missouri near the southeast corner of the state. Its length is but sixty miles but it receives so many tributaries that its magnitude at its mouth equals that of many larger and longer rivers. The Little Nemaha is a smaller addition of the Big Nemaha.

The *Blues* are the important rivers of the east-central part of the state, of those running northerly and southerly. The main branch, being 132 miles long, drains eight counties, among the best in the state. The Middle Fork of the Blue rises in Hamilton County, traverses York County and unites with the North Blue at Seward. Its length is about sixty miles. The West Fork unites with the Main Blue five miles above Crete, in Saline County, after coming in through York and Seward counties. School Creek, Beaver Creek and Turkey Creek are important tributaries. Professor Aughey described the Blue Rivers, as follows: "All of these Blue Rivers and their tributaries are remarkable for the amount of water which they carry off and the great beauty of the bottom lands through which they pass. It

is doubtful whether the mind could imagine a section better supplied with rivers, creeks, and rivulets, giving an abundance of mill power and other water privileges." There is still another Blue River that rises in Adams County, and comes down through Clay and Thayer counties and passes out of the state in Jefferson County, and, in Kansas, finally unites with the Big Blue.

There are yet many other rivers which have not been gone into with any detail of treatment. Among these are the Bow rivers in northeastern Nebraska, mainly in Cedar County. Salt Creek, named from the number of saline springs that drain into it, and which circles about the city of Lincoln; Weeping Water, in Cass County; the Wahoo, in Saunders County; Elk Creek, in Dakota County; and South and West Iowa Creeks, in Dixon County.

#### THE CLIMATE OF NEBRASKA

By George A. Loveland, Meteorologist, U. S. Weather Bureau

The principal elements of climate are temperature, humidity, rainfall, sunshine, wind, and storm. For Nebraska, they are as follows:

**Temperature.** The average temperature of this state decreases from east to west and south to north. The mean is 51° in the southeast, 50° in the southwest, 48° in the northeast, and about 45° in the northwest. The highest temperature on record, 115°, was in 1918, and the lowest, 47° below zero, in 1899. From 1876 to 1918, a period of forty-two years, the average temperature of the state was 48.6°.

January, the coldest month, has a mean temperature of 28.1°, being 25° in the southeast and about 20° in the north. February and December are slightly warmer. July is the warmest month, although the hottest days of the year may occur in June, July, August, or September. August is slightly below July and thereafter the decline in temperature is gradual. Summer evenings usually are cool compared with midday.

**Frosts.** The growing season (free from frosts) is about 160 days in the southeastern counties and 130 days in the northwest. Spring approaches the state from the southeast and fall and winter enter from the northwest.

Light frosts sometimes occur throughout May and in early June in the northwestern counties. The last killing frost of spring in the eastern counties is usually in late April or early in May. It is from May 10th to 15th in the northern and western parts of the state.

**Humidity.** The relative humidity averages about 70 per cent in Nebraska. It is highest in mornings and lowest in the early afternoon. It is higher in winter than in summer. The western counties have a lower humidity than the eastern counties. There is a close relation between the relative humidity and the amount of precipitation.

**Rainfall.** The average rainfall for the state between 1876 and 1918 was 23.64 inches. The eastern counties have more precipitation than the western counties. There is a gradual decrease in amount from east to west. The annual rainfall for different parts of the state the past forty-two years is as follows:

Southeastern part 29.87 inches.

Northeastern part 27.43 inches.

Central part 24.49 inches.

Southwestern part 23.03 inches.

Northwestern part 19.11 inches.

Western part 17.72 inches.

The records show some fluctuation in the amount of rainfall by periods of years, but no definite and reliable statement can be made regarding the distribution of these periods and their probable occurrence in the future.

The rainfall occurs principally in the spring and summer months. The wet season, May to July, inclusive, has 46 per cent of the annual rainfall. The heaviest and most evenly distributed rainfall comes in June and decreases to January, which has less than one-sixth that of June. The June rainfall is over 5 inches in the southeastern counties, and less than 3 inches in the west. The driest period of the year, so far as the effects of precipitation and evaporation on crops is concerned, is apt to be in July and August.

The annual monthly rainfall for the state from 1876 to 1918, which shows the heaviest precipitation during the growing season, is as follows:

January .....	.52 inches
February .....	.72 inches
March .....	1.11 inches
April .....	2.41 inches
May .....	3.63 inches
June .....	3.81 inches
July .....	3.43 inches
August .....	2.81 inches
September .....	2.13 inches
October .....	1.57 inches
November .....	.68 inches
December .....	.74 inches

The dry season comes from November to February with 11 per cent of the annual amount of moisture. Most of the precipitation of these months is snow, which averages 28 inches, making  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches of water. The average amount of snow increases from November to January and February.

Sunshine. The state, as a whole, has a comparatively large amount of sunshine. The cloudiness is greatest in the eastern and southeastern counties and comes in association with rain and snow.

Winds. The average wind velocity, though not exactly known, is about 9 miles per hour for the state. It averages highest in the western counties and lowest in the southeast. March and April are the windiest months, with averages of 10.6 and 11.5 miles per hour. July and August, the calmest, average 7.4 and 7.7 miles per hour. The highest velocities of record have occurred in thunder storms. The maximum has been about 80 miles per hour.

The prevailing wind direction is from the north and northwest from October to May; from the south and southeast in May, June, and July; and from the south from August to September.

Storms. Cyclones are the movements of air over large areas which bring to Nebraska the rainfall, change in cloudiness, and temperature and sometimes develop

storm conditions, especially in the southeastern part. Tornadoes coming also in association with the cyclones are not very common. Far the largest amount of damage done in the state was during the year of the well-known Omaha tornado.

Destructive hail storms are of record. The effect is over small areas.

Healthful Climate. Viewed as a whole, the climate of the state may be regarded as healthful beyond the average. Under the wide range of conditions in elevation, between altitudes of the 840 feet and 5,340 feet, and because of the range in temperature, sunshine, humidity, cloudiness and precipitation, one may select a place in the state to suit the required conditions as may relate to healthfulness.

#### NEBRASKA'S GAME RESOURCES

By Robert H. Wolcott, Head of Department of Zoology, The University of Nebraska, and Frank H. Shoemaker, of the Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey, The University of Nebraska

#### GAME

To the red men who roamed these plains and prairies before the advent of the whites, the territory which is now Nebraska formed part of a veritable happy hunting ground. To them the numerous herds of buffalo, deer, elk and antelope which dotted the open country in all directions, or which sought the protection of the fringes of timber along the streams, together with the vast numbers of water fowl which frequented both the streams and prairie lakes and sloughs, formed very nearly an all-sufficient resource. The flesh of this game provided them with meat, the hides both clothed them and furnished them with shelter, and many articles were made from fur, feathers, horns, or other parts, which meant to them luxury in personal adornment, in the pomp of tribal ceremonials, and even in the performance of religious worship.

The presence of these same animals was the attraction which brought the first white settlers to this region, these being the trappers, who came to themselves collect furs, and the traders, whose object was to barter various manufactured articles for the skins and furs of the Indians. These were followed by the gold-seekers whose wagon-trains wound wearily across the plains toward the Eldorado in the West, oblivious to the potential agricultural wealth of the country they traversed, but keenly appreciative of the opportunities which the abundance of game presented. Gradually permanent settlements were established, and many a pioneer of the great army that was to follow, once the fertility of the soil had become generally known, found in the game a means of maintenance in time of hunger and destitution.

The abundance of game and ease of procuring it led to thoughtless waste. The commercial value of buffalo hides tempted the cupidity of men who engaged in the slaughter of these animals by thousands, stripping the carcass of its hide and leaving it to rot on the ground; the skins were so numerous in the east a half-century ago that the buffalo robe became an indispensable adjunct of a sleigh ride. The herds of wild animals were rapidly exterminated and immense numbers of cattle took their place on "the range"; more recently the open range has in its turn disappeared and the barbed wire fences of farms and ranches today extend clear across this state.

But long after the larger game mammals had been destroyed, countless numbers

of game birds traversed our territory twice a year in their migrations and many made their homes here and reared their young. Nebraska became the mecca for the sportsmen of the middle west, and even attracted many from the far east. Market hunting became a profitable employment and a considerable number of men engaged in it not only in Nebraska but in neighboring states. The supply of feathered game seemed limitless and no voice was effectively raised against the slaughter, which went on ceaselessly from British America to the Gulf with hardly an intermission even in the breeding season. Game laws were placed among the statutes of Nebraska as far back as 1860, but for a long time thereafter were rarely enforced. In 1900, Congress passed the Lacey Act, which was aimed to check the traffic in game, and began a nation wide campaign in favor of game conservation. The Nebraska Legislature of 1901 enacted admirable laws, including provisions for the appointment of a force of wardens, and since that time a strong public opinion has been developed in this state in favor of their strict enforcement.

In many parts of the country, however, particularly in the South, public sentiment was not aroused and the wasteful slaughter continued. Song birds, not in any sense game, and of too great value as enemies of insect pests to be killed for food, were being destroyed in these states, often in large numbers. The "pump-gun" and the automatic added greatly to the effectiveness of the individual hunter and with the increase of the number of hunters due to increasing population, the efforts of the states in which an enlightened public sentiment did exist and in which well devised game laws were being successfully enforced, were insufficient to check the rapid diminution in the numbers of our migratory game birds, which threatened their complete extinction in a future not far distant. At this juncture the national government again interposed and the passage of the migratory bird law, the provisions of which have been more recently incorporated into a treaty with Great Britain, has laid the foundation for nation wide and uniform restriction of the shooting of game with a view of conserving this resource that future generations may share in its utilization.

No argument is needed to show that the continued presence of the vast herds of large game mammals was incompatible with the settlement of our state and the development of its agricultural resources. But the existence of an abundant game bird population is not inconsistent with the highest degree of cultivation of the soil and the maximum utilization of all our natural resources. No sane man would place the welfare of wild animals before the interests of human society, but on the other hand no wise man would neglect to utilize to its fullest extent the natural wealth of the region in which he lived or subscribe to a spendthrift policy which would result in the waste by his generation of resources which might be both enjoyed in moderation by himself and transmitted unimpaired to his children and to his children's children.

#### MAMMALS\*

Former Nebraska game mammals, now extinct, impounded, or protected throughout the year.

The Elk was formerly found abundantly in all parts of the state, but disappeared

\*Many of the statements here given are taken from "A Preliminary Review of the Mammals of Nebraska," by Prof. M. H. Swenk, published conjointly by the University and the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, September, 1908.



in the early '80s. A fine herd is now maintained on the game reservation east of Valentine, and there are a few more in captivity in the parks of Omaha and Lincoln.

The Plains White-tailed Deer was formerly common in all the wooded valleys of the state, but settlement of the country has caused its gradual extermination, until at the present time it is found only in the northwest corner, in the wildest canyons of the Pine Ridge country, and in very limited numbers. Though protected by the game laws throughout the year, this animal is marked for total extinction within our borders, as has been the case with the white-tailed deer in many sections east of Nebraska.

The Black-tailed Deer was the common deer of early Nebraska, found alike in woodland, plains, prairie and sandhill regions, but it has now almost wholly disappeared. One small band of about twenty-five animals still existed in the sandhills of the Dismal River region about ten years ago, and at that time was being given all the protection possible by the ranchers of the vicinity; the recent history of this herd is not known.

The Pronghorn Antelope was originally found over the entire area of the state, but is now heard from only as small bands are reported from time to time in the extreme western part of Nebraska, most of them perhaps having crossed our boundary from Wyoming or Colorado. There are, however, stationary bands in Sioux County, nearly due west of Alliance, and in Garden County, near Crescent Lake. A young one was observed near Sidney in 1918.

The Bad Lands Mountain Sheep was found in small numbers on Court House Rock, in Scotts Bluff County, until the late '70s, and one animal of this species was noted as far east as Birdwood Creek, near North Platte.

The American Bison, or Buffalo, was formerly present in enormous numbers in all parts of Nebraska. The last of the wild animals were killed in the early '80s. A small herd is impounded in the game reservation near Valentine and is in a thriving condition. This animal affords the most prominent example of the waste of a natural game resource. It existed previous to the middle of the last century to the number of many millions, scattered over the whole of the plains region. Killed in gradually increasing numbers up to the '60s, it was systematically exterminated in the '70s and early '80s. Only the hides were utilized, and of these on the average only one-half were saved; most of the meat was wasted. Though the animals were of an inoffensive disposition, and the calves were easily domesticated, no attempts seem to have been made to bring the species under domestication till after its destruction was practically complete.

The Black Bear was formerly found in Nebraska, principally in the northern part, but never commonly, as it is a forest animal.

The Plains Grizzly Bear is said to have occurred in the extreme northwest corner of the state in early days, but no definite records exist.

#### WILD LIFE RESOURCES

This group of natural assets receives too little attention. The only policy for several years, if it can be called such, has been to destroy the wild life without regard to consequence. The time has come, however, when wanton destruction should cease that progress may be made along lines determined by technical knowledge.

The destruction of certain kinds of wild life means waste which cannot be

replaced with domesticated forms. There are in Nebraska a number of animals which serve continually and successfully and which the people destroy without regard to their usefulness. They are the animals which keep down insects, mice, gophers, and rats. Most of the song birds, the quail, several of the hawks, the owls, toads, bats, and some of the snakes assist in maintaining a condition necessary for agricultural development. Among the wild life resources, aside from the animals which maintain the biological balance, are grasses, forest, fruit, fish, game, and fur-bearing animals.

#### WILD GRASS RESOURCES

By Raymond J. Pool, Professor of Botany, The University of Nebraska

When white men first saw the area now included in the state of Nebraska, the landscape was dominated by a vast, rolling stretch of native grassland, whereas today much of the state, and particularly the eastern part, is farmed and it is difficult to find a piece of prairie in the agricultural sections large enough to give one a fair idea of the original conditions. Large areas of prairie occur, however, in the central and western counties.

**Prairie a Resource.** Wherever the prairie sod is broken and the soil cultivated for a few years, the wild native grasses and other native plants disappear. Those which remain are to be found only along the fences and the roadsides. We would not deplore this destruction of the original prairie vegetation because of the important agricultural pursuits which have been developed by the pioneers and their descendants. But the high price of meat directs the thoughts of a larger proportion of our people than ever before to the question of meat production and to the circumstances immediately surrounding the live stock industry.

Enormous supplies of essential food products are being produced by the herds of live stock which thrive upon the native forage of the remaining grazing land, but days of the open range are past and the stock raising industries are rapidly becoming more highly specialized as is farming in general.

Much of the natural grazing land of western Nebraska has come into the hands of large operators, who face the problems of efficient ranch management. This brings them to a consideration of native and introduced pasture plants and the best methods of handling the same. Much of the grazing country is covered by the finest natural forage, yet considerable areas of it go to waste every summer, while some also is abused and destroyed by over-grazing. Most of the natural grazing land is in the Sandhill Region which is admirably adapted by nature for cattle raising.

**Many Grasses in Nebraska.** The natural forage problem is largely one of native grasses and how to utilize them. Some lands of central and western Nebraska are peculiarly rich in the number and value of grasses and other forage plants, including many species of sedges, which resemble true grasses so closely that few people distinguish them from the grasses.

**Nutritious Grasses.** The two most nutritious grasses of the whole list are Buffalo Grass and Blue Grama Grass. These are widespread and abundant on the hard land of the central and western counties where they form a dense sod. The Sand Grama is quite common on sandy soil throughout the Sandhill Region. The above grasses are not only fine for summer forage, but they may also afford winter pasture. I have seen hundreds of acres covered with a fine stand of these grasses that

were not being pastured at all, a condition which should not obtain where the price of meat is so high.

The Buffalo and Grama grasses are low, densely growing forms quite different from the tall prairie grasses which once dominated eastern Nebraska, and which prevail at the present time in the sandhills. There are about 125 species of grasses growing in the sandhills, among which the following are prominent: Little Blue Stem, Turkeyfoot Grass, Indian Millet, Sheep Fescue, Poverty Grass, Redfield's Grass, Blow-out Grass, Sand Grass, Prairie Grass, Low Blow-out Grass, and Triple Awn Grass.

#### FOREST RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

Nebraska has more forest, native and planted, than is generally supposed. The natural forest occurs along streams, on rough lands bordering valleys, and on the rough uplands of the western and northwestern counties. The distribution is scattered and there are no exclusively forested areas.

**Broad-leaf Trees.** The principal trees of valley bottoms are willows, cottonwoods, elms, hackberry, boxelder, and green ash.

Willows are represented by a number of species, of which the sandbar, black, almond-leaf, and glossy forms are the most common.

Cottonwoods are widely distributed. The broad-leaf form has the greatest range; the lance-leaf form is in some of the canyons of Pine Ridge and Wildeat Ridge, and the western or narrow-leaf cottonwood is reported in Banner County.

Elms are represented principally by the white elm and the red elm, but the cork elm has limited distribution.

Hackberry occurs on most of the alluvial lands of the state in association with elms, cottonwoods, and other broad-leaf species.

The boxelder is one of the principal stream-side trees of the state. It is quite plentiful in most of the bottom land forest, and leads in numbers at many places.

Green and red ash are common in many valleys in association with boxelder and other trees, but the white ash is restricted to the lowlands of the eastern counties.

The soft maple grows on the lowlands of counties bordering or near the Missouri, and the hard maple is found in some planted groves.

The sycamore is represented on the alluvial lands of the Missouri and its tributaries from Omaha southward. There are only a few trees.

The honey locust and the Kentucky coffee tree are found in the natural forest along the Missouri and the lower course of the Niobrara, and the former occurs also in the lower part of the Republican Valley.

The buckeye is in the extreme southeast corner of the state.

The blufflands of the eastern counties support oaks, basswood, hickories, and a few other trees.

The oaks are represented principally by the red oak and the bur oak, the latter having wide range on the rough valley sides of the eastern, southern, and northern parts of the state. Some of the best stands are in the Niobrara and its tributaries, as at Wood Lake, Long Pine, and Valentine. This tree is in practically pure stands at some of these places. The black oak, scarlet oak, white oak, swamp white oak,

chestnut oak, and the black jack oak have been identified in the southeastern corner of the state.

Hickories are represented by four species, but the shellbark and bitternut are most common. They occur on the flood plains and rough lands bordering valleys of the southeastern counties.

Mountain maple, black birch, and a few representatives of quaking aspen occur in the canyons of Pine Ridge.

The paper birch grows on some of the steep slopes of the Niobrara Valley, the best stands being about ten miles east of Valentine.

**Pines and Cedars.** Pines occur at a number of places in the western part of the state. Growing among the pines are red cedar and a few junipers. Most pines occur in the Pine Ridge, Wildcat Ridge, North Platte and Lodge Pole areas, occupying about 500 square miles. The trees are at their best on Pine Ridge, being 12 to 24 inches in diameter and 40 feet or more high. The trees are quite free from disease and the timber is of good quality. Pines are also found in good stands along the Niobrara, as in Schlagle Canyon south of Valentine, north of Ainsworth, and in Long Pine Canyon. The broad-leaf species of the east and the pines and cedars from the west meet along the Niobrara.

**Forest Reserves.** The federal government has experimented with tree planting near Halsey, and shown conclusively that certain species can be grown on the sandhills of Nebraska. Many ranchmen, profiting by this experience, have beautified their places and grown large wind breaks for protection. The Reserve now has several hundred acres of very good pine forest which can be seen from the Burlington trains as they pass through the Middle Loup Valley above Halsey.

#### WILD FRUITS

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

The wild fruits of most importance in Nebraska are gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, grapes, chokecherries, and the sand cherry, plum, buffalo berry, crab apple, elderberry, and pawpaw.

The Common Gooseberry is on most of the bottom lands of the eastern and southeastern parts of the state where there is forest. It comes into fruitage early in the year and the fruit is eagerly sought by many people from the country and towns. The western wild gooseberry is found principally in the northwestern counties. The red raspberry and the black raspberry are found on the slope lands of the timber belts. They give a limited amount of food. The wild currant is quite plentiful at places in the canyons of the Pine Ridge and Niobrara areas. It also occurs in the ravines bordering the North Platte.

Wild Grapes of two kinds occur in the state, being found in practically every county with timber. They are the early wild grape and the summer grape. The fruit of these has considerable value, especially along the Missouri and in the Frenchman and Niobrara valleys.

Wild Cherries of four species grow in Nebraska. They are the wild black cherry of the eastern counties, the sand cherry of the sandhills, the western chokecherry and the common chokecherry.

The Sand Cherry is a valuable fruit. It grows on very sandy ground, principally

on the sandhills and at places on the high plains of western Nebraska. The ranchmen gather this fruit in large quantities and use it for a number of purposes as for jelly, jams, sauce and wine.

Chokecherries are widely distributed in the state. The western form produces large amounts of fruit, which are used for jellies, butter and other purposes. The chokecherry is a common plant along the Niobrara and its tributaries, in the canyons of the Pine Ridge, along parts of the Platte, and at places in the Loup and Elkhorn valleys.

The Buffalo Berry, sometimes called the bull berry, grows along most streams and ravines of the western and central counties. The plant is a strong branching shrub, 3 to 8 feet high, and with thorns and light colored leaves. The fruit is reddish when ripe. Probably most fruit of this kind is produced in the North Platte Valley on sandy land near the river. The fruit is gathered in large quantities late in the fall and used principally for jellies and jams.

The Wild Plum has wide distribution in Nebraska. It is especially abundant in the Frenchman, Medicine and Niobrara valleys. The fruit is used for butter and sauce.

The Western Crab Apple is present, but not plentiful in the state, occurring principally in the southeastern counties.

The Elderberry grows abundantly near streams in the southeastern counties. It is used to some extent for jams and preserves.

The Pawpaw grows along the Missouri in the southeastern part of the state. It is most plentiful at or near Nebraska City, Peru, Brownville, Nemaha and Rulo. The ripe fruit is eaten raw.

Nuts grow in parts of Nebraska. Hazelnuts occur in some of the timber areas of the southeastern counties. The hickory nut is found in this part of the state and the black walnut is more widely distributed.

#### FISH RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

Nebraska has several kinds of fish in small streams, rivers, natural lakes, and artificial lakes. The following are the principal kinds: Channel cat, bullhead, crappie, pike, perch, trout, sunfish, carp and buffalo.

A subdivision of the State Department of Agriculture looks after the propagation, distribution and protection of fish, licensing and the enforcement of fish and game laws. There are three state fish hatcheries in Nebraska. A chief game warden and many deputy wardens are employed to conserve the fish resources of the state.

Speckled and Rainbow Trout occur in many of the small, swift streams of the northwestern part of the state, as in the Pine Ridge area and in tributaries of the middle course of the Niobrara. Some of the trout streams are Monroe Creek, Sow Belly Creek, West Hat Creek, East Hat Creek, White River, Big Bordeaux, White Clay, Boardman, above its junction with the Snake, Schlagle, Minnechadua, McFarland and Plum creeks. Trout occur also in the drainage ditches of the North Platte Valley and at the head waters of the Elkhorn and Loup rivers. One can find very good sport among the trout of Nebraska.

Bass of different kinds, of which the big-mouthed species is the most representa-

tive, grow in several natural and artificial lakes throughout the state and fishing is very good at some of these places. At one time bass fishing was best in some of the sandhill lakes. Most fish here were winter-killed in 1915. Lakes were again stocked and fishing has become quite good. Beaver, Rat, Hackberry, Red Deer, Dewey, Willow, Enders, and Center lakes are well known bass lakes. Willow Lake is the best bass breeding ground in the state. Bass and perch minnows are collected here for stocking other waters. There are bass in the dredged lakes along the Platte, in a number of cut off lakes along the Missouri and Republican, in artificial lakes of the Loup, Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys and in some of the reservoirs of the irrigation districts.

Bluegills, Sunfish and Crappie occur in most waters suitable for bass and perch. Some of the largest catches of crappie and sunfish are from dredged lakes near Fremont, Valley, Ashland, Meadow and Louisville.

Striped Perch are present in great numbers in Dewey, Red Deer, Hackberry and several other lakes of Cherry County. They occur also in many natural lakes, artificial lakes and reservoirs, and in some streams. This fish is well suited to Nebraska and is easily caught. Its firm meat makes good eating.

Pickereel and Wall-eyed Pike grow principally in the Niobrara and North Platte, but are found in the Loup, Elkhorn and Republican, and several lakes. Large numbers of pike are caught below the diversion dams in Scotts Bluff County. The catch each year is equal to many tons. The pike has been planted in several streams and lakes.

Bullheads are common in Nebraska, in the streams, ponds and lakes. The yellow cat is a desirable fish. It has been distributed quite generally for stocking purposes.

Channel Cats are in all rivers of the state. They afford good fishing in the Republican, Little Blue, Nemahas, Loup, Elkhorn and Niobrara, and at places in the Platte. They are also found in many lakes.

German Carp, American Carp and Buffalo are found in many streams and lakes. The carp are caught mainly in the southeastern part of the state. The buffalo is widely distributed, occurring in practically all streams of the western counties. Gar and sturgeon are large stream fish. They occur principally in the Missouri and Platte. The eel has been caught in the Elkhorn, Loup, and Platte.

Frogs have some importance as a source of food. The small leopard frog thrives in most marshes and fresh water lakes. Though edible, it is not much used for food. The greenish bullfrog is native to the southeastern counties. Many of the streams and lakes in the central and northwestern counties have been stocked with this frog. One of the best results obtained is in the boggy places of Long Pine Canyon. Frogs, now quite numerous in these places, are becoming of value for food.

Turtles occur in all parts of the state in both dry and wet places. The snapping turtle is widely represented by a number of varieties.

#### MODERN GAME RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director Conservation and Soil Survey

The state's game consists of birds and mammals. Among the birds are the quail, grouse, prairie chicken, ducks, geese, snipes, plovers, and the curlew. The wild turkey

was formerly found in the eastern and southwestern parts of the state. The mammals are the rabbits, raccoon, antelopes, and deer.

Bob White or Quail occur in parts of the state where there is brush and timber. They are quite numerous along the Niobrara and parts of the Republican, and are among the best game birds of the state, but have greater value in agriculture. There is no open season on quail at this time.

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Prairie Chickens were formerly plentiful in the eastern and southern counties. There are few birds now except in the eastern part of the Sandhill Region. Grouse occur in the sandhills, mostly in the central and western parts. They are closely related to the prairie chicken, but the feet are feathered whereas the feet of the prairie chicken are bare. Grouse are much lighter below and this is particularly noticeable in flight. The prairie chicken flies less smoothly than the grouse. Both birds afford good shooting in the sandhills. Sage hens are not now found in Nebraska, but they do occur across the line in Wyoming.

Ducks are in Nebraska in large numbers during periods of migration and breeding. Some of them remain during the winter. Those breeding, principally in the lake districts of the sandhills are: Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Ruddy or Butterball, Redhead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and Shoveller.

Hunting Ducks and Grouse. Duck and grouse shooting have considerable importance in parts of the sandhills. There are lodges or hunting camps at many lakes and marshes. The number of birds killed at these places during the open season is large. Hunters come from all parts of Nebraska and from other states. Duck shooting is very good in other parts of the state, and a number of geese are bagged each year.

The Upland Plover formerly was plentiful throughout the state. The numbers dwindled until a few birds were observed, since which time there has been a steady increase.

The Jack-snipe or Wilson's Snipe is found in small numbers about marsh land, but seems to be decreasing as these areas are drained.

The Long-billed Curlew has increased in numbers the past few years. It occurs throughout western Nebraska but principally in the wet valleys of the sandhills. There is no open season on this bird in the state.

Shore birds and the Mourning Dove are hunted some in Nebraska. The dove receives natural protection in that many people are opposed to killing it on account of sentiment. There is no open season on the dove.

The Chinese Pheasant has been introduced at places in the state. If the bird is as successful here as it is in Colorado, it should become a source of food within a few years.

Rabbits are common in all parts of Nebraska. There are four species—the prairie cottontail, common in the eastern counties; plains cottontail of the western part; the black-tailed jack rabbit, principally in the southern counties; and the white-tailed jack rabbit, mainly in the northern part of the state.

The rabbits are hunted universally. They afford sport and supply a considerable amount of meat. It would be possible to further develop them as a resource.

The Western Fox Squirrel occurs in native timber in eastern and southeastern counties. It is also found in planted groves in most parts of the state. The squirrel is hunted to some extent for meat.

The Raccoon occurs along practically all streams in the state, especially where there is brush, and about the marshes of the sandhills. It is hunted very generally in wooded areas and is trapped in the lake districts. The opossum occurs in the timber belts and is found occasionally a considerable distance from forests.

The Prong-horn Antelope, once plentiful in all parts of the state, remains in Kimball, Banner, Sioux, and Garden counties. The largest bands are in Sioux County, south of Agate, and in Garden County, near Crescent Lake. The antelope is protected throughout the year.

Deer of two species remain in northwestern Nebraska. The white-tailed deer occurs in the Dismal River country of the sandhills, where for several years it has been protected by ranchmen. The black-tailed deer is found at two places in the Pine Ridge country. There is no open season for deer hunting in the state.

Wapiti or Elk were very plentiful in what is now Nebraska. They are reported to have occurred in largest numbers along Dismal River. A few animals are now in parks and game preserves.

The Bison, now extinct except for a few animals in parks and on the federal game preserve located about four miles east of Valentine, was formerly the most important hunted animal in Nebraska.

#### FUR BEARING ANIMALS

By Frank H. Shoemaker, of the Conservation and Soil Survey

The largest fur-bearing animals found in Nebraska at the present time are the beaver, raccoon, badger, lynx, bobcat, and coyote. Smaller animals with furs of value are the muskrat and the various species of skunks, weasels, and minks. Formerly the black bear, the wolverine, the marten, and the otter occurred more or less commonly in Nebraska, but all are now extinct within our borders, excepting possibly the otter.

Muskrats, by reason of their numbers, are probably of the greatest economic importance in Nebraska as fur producers. They occur in all parts of the state along streams and lakes, ponds and marshes, sometimes in large colonies. Considerable trapping is done, chiefly in the western part of the state and about sandhill marshes, and with good returns. The raising of muskrats for furs might be greatly developed there, as it has been in some states farther east.

Minks, Weasels and Skunks are found chiefly in woodland along streams. Their furs are highly valued if taken at proper seasons. These animals are all destructive to poultry, and for protective if no other reason, should be trapped systematically where poultry is threatened.



## CHAPTER II

### THE NEBRASKA INDIANS

CHRONOLOGICALLY, 1673-1804—THE PAWNEES—PAWNEE WAR OF 1859—PAWNEE-SIOUX MASSACRE, 1873—MAJOR FRANK NORTH AND PAWNEE SCOUTS—THE SIOUX—DEPREDACTIONS, DAWSON COUNTY—BUFFALO AND HALL COUNTIES—HALL COUNTY MASSACRES—THAYER COUNTY—GENERAL CARR'S BATTLE WITH SIOUX—THE OMAHAS—THE OTOES—THE WINNEBAGOES—THE PONCAS—IOWAS, SACS AND FOX—ARAPAHOES AND CHEYENNES—BATTLE OF AUGUST, 1860—BATTLE OF ASH HOLLOW—WHITE MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE RED MAN.

“The land was ours—this glorious land—  
With all its wealth of wood and streams,  
Our warriors strong of heart and hand,  
Our daughters beautiful as dreams,  
When wearied at the thirsty noon,  
We knelt where the spring gushed up,  
To take our Father's blessed boon—  
Unlike the white man's poison cup.”

—Whittier, *“The Indian Tale.”*

Except for the prehistoric races that have been heretofore spoken of, and concerning whom no facts can be recorded here, the Indians were the first settlers of Nebraska. While their coming may have only antedated that of the first explorers by a few hundred years, their claim to precedence of residence cannot be doubted.

Before undertaking a chronological survey of the part the Indians played in formation of early Nebraska annals, we may first make a brief survey of the history of the various tribes found to be flourishing to any very marked degree in Nebraska. This will be interwoven into the first portion of the chronology to follow here.

1673—June. Father Jacques Marquette, accompanied by that devout Christian worker and missionary, Louis Joliet, embarked upon his great exploring trip of the “Father of the Waters.” While he made a trip as far south as the Red River, the interesting feature to our narrative is Marquette's description of the hitherto unknown Missouri country, and thereby giving forth a first report on Nebraska Indians. In a most interesting chart of that expedition, now in the archives at Montreal, Marquette locates, in what is now Kansas and Nebraska, the following Indian villages:

The Ouemessouriet (Missouri),  
The Kenza (Kansas),  
The Ouschage (Osage),  
The Paneassa (Pawnee),  
and the Maha (Omaha).

That his information was surprisingly correct is seen from the fact that the French explorers found these very tribes in relatively the same position as indicated in the chart nearly two hundred years later.

1701. Governor D'Tberville of Louisiana reported the location of the Maha and Otoe tribes.

1719. Dustine, French explorer, visited the Pawnee nation.

1720. Massacre of a Spanish expedition under Pedro Villazur by Nebraska Indians, purported to have been aided by hostile French.

1721. Charlevoix reports of the Missouri tribe, but not upon Nebraska soil. He reports concerning the extent of the tribes of Indians inhabiting the Missouri River above the Missouri nation, "Higher up we find the Cansez (Kansas); then the Octotatas (Otoes), which some call Mactotatas; then the Ajouez (Iowas) and Panis (Pawnees), a very populous nation, divided into several cantons, which have names very different from each other." This would lead to the conclusion that during the first half of the seventeenth century, the country now forming the State of Nebraska was inhabited along its southern border by the Kansas Indians; that the Platte River, then called the Rivere des Panis, was the home of the Pawnees, who had also villages to the northward—at a point a considerable distance up the Missouri River. And to the westward, lived the Padoucahs—a tribe long since extinct.

(While there is uncertainty as to whether some of these explorers just named above really visited Nebraska, it is known to a certainty that Dustine visited Kansas as early as 1719, and Bourgmont was there in 1724.)

1724. De Bourgmont, French commander, is reputed to have made a military expedition as far as the Nebraska region and counseled with at least the Otoes and Padoucahs.

1739. When Mallet brothers reach and name Platte River, they journey up river as far as its forks before striking south.

1743. La Verendrye brothers, on trip on which they discover the Rocky Mountains, describe the Pawnee Indians.

1770. Otoe Indians reputed to have established their chief village on the Platte, about three miles from the present village of Yutan.

1789. Jean Baptiste Monier, of St. Louis, reported to have found the Ponca Indians at the mouth of the Niobrara River.

1794. Jean Baptiste Truteau, under the Commercial Company, visited the Maha and Ponca tribes.

This brings the record of the principal intercourses between the white men and Indians of Nebraska down to 1804, the year in which, on August 3d, the first council held with Indians in Nebraska by representatives of the United States was held, at Council Bluff, now Fort Calhoun.

1804. Lewis and Clark, in the year of 1804, report finding Pawnees, Missouris, and Otoes in possession of the Platte, the Poncas near the mouth of the Niobrara and the Omahas in the northeastern part of the state, centering around what is now Sioux City.

This gives us a roster of the principal tribes in Nebraska and their respective locations, and is probably a proper point at which to divert and divide the record of Indian history of the state into tribal divisions.

## THE PAWNEES

*Origin.* Some early writers have taken the position that the Pawnees were the descendants of the ancient Aztec nation, but the best authorities agree that the tribe belongs to the Caddoan family, and that the original habitat was probably on the Red River of Louisiana. In the Caddoan migration toward the northeast the Pawnee became separated from the main body and established themselves in the Valley of the Platte, where the Siouan tribes found them at an early date. Some of the tribes, though, moved on northward. Thus the Arikari moved by way of the Missouri, penetrating far into North Dakota. Sometime later the Skidi (Wolves) advanced northward and halted at the Platte, there to be overtaken by the Pawnees proper.

The Pawnees called themselves Skihiksihiks, or "men par excellence." The popular name, and the one most in vogue, is Wolf People. They were a warlike and powerful nation, claiming the whole region watered by the Platte from the Rocky Mountains to its mouth. They held in check the powerful Kiowas of the Black Hills and waged successful war against the Comanches of the Arkansas.

There were from an early day four grand divisions, or clans, of the Pawnees, having distinct government, though with language in common.

There were Shani (or Tswa), the Grand Pawnees, with villages on the south bank of the Platte, opposite the present Grand Island; the Kitkehaki (Tskithka Petower Kattahankies), or Republican Pawnees, on the Republican River in northern Kansas; the Pitahauerat (Tapage), or Noisy Pawnees, also on the Platte; and the Skidi or Loup (Wolf), Pawnees, on the Loup fork of the Platte Valley.

*Customs.* Among many other customs that might be narrated:—They lived in well built log houses, covered with turf and earth, preferring these to the movable tepee, which was only used when the bands were on extended hunts. They depended very much on agriculture, the raising of corn and pumpkins—more so than upon the buffalo hunt. In this manner they probably never outgrew the sedentary and agricultural habits peculiar to all southern tribes.

It is narrated that from time to time they sacrificed prisoners to the sun to obtain good crops and success in warfare. "Anyone was at liberty to offer up a prisoner that they had captured in warfare. The victim was clothed in the gayest apparel and fed and feasted on the best that could be had, and when sufficiently fattened for their purpose, a suitable day was appointed for the sacrifice, so that the whole nation might attend. The unfortunate victim was then bound to a cross in the presence of the assembled multitude, after which a solemn dance and other ceremonies were performed, and at their conclusion the warrior whose prisoner he had been stepped forward and cleaved his head with a tomahawk, the other warriors filling his body with arrows. This barbarous custom, however, was finally stopped in 1820, through the influence of the missionaries."

1806. Lieutenant Zebulon Pike's exploring expedition, when on its way to the mountains in this year, encountered the Republican Pawnees in northern Kansas. This was a few years before they moved north to join their brothers already established on the Loup Forks. On September 29th, Lieutenant Pike and his aid Lieutenant Wilkinson held a grand council with the chiefs of that nation, a short account of which serves to give an idea of the northward limit of Spanish activity at that late time, and the degree of intercourse attainable with these Indians.

"The council was held at the Pawnee Republic Village (near the present site of Scandia, Kansas, in Republic County) and was attended by 400 warriors. When the parties assembled for their council, Lieutenant Pike found that the Pawnees had unfurled a Spanish flag at the door of the chief, one which had lately been presented by that government, through the hands of Lieutenant Malgoras. To the request of Lieutenant Pike that the flag should be delivered to him, and one of the United States hoisted in its place, they at first made no response; but, upon his repeating his demand, with the emphatic declaration that they must choose between Americans and Spaniards, and that it was impossible for the nation to have two fathers, they decided to put themselves, for the time at least, under American protection. An old man accordingly rose, went to the door, took down the Spanish flag, and laid it at the feet of Lieutenant Pike, and in its stead elevated the stars and stripes."

1812. Treaty of amity with Pawnees by the Government.

*Major Long's Report.* 1819. The expedition of Major Long sent out by the War Department. Leaving Engineer Cantonment "just below Council Bluffs, on June 10th, it struck out over Indian country."

Similar treaties of amity to the one just mentioned as having been ratified with the Pawnees on January 5, 1812, had been made with the Maha (Omahas) on December 26, 1815, and with the Otoes on December 26, 1817, and Major Long was instructed to make investigation and see that these treaties were lived up to by white man and red man alike. So he visited the Pawnee villages on his course westward. It would be impossible to take space to go into every detail of the life and customs of each of the tribes to be treated in this chapter, but an account of this visit will be worth our time and space. At sunset, June 10th, Major Long's expedition went into camp at a small creek about eleven miles distant from the village of the Grand Pawnees. His account reads:—

"On the following morning, having arranged the party according to rank, and given the necessary instructions for the preservation of order, we proceeded forward, and in a short time came in sight of the first of the Pawnee villages. The trail on which we had traveled since leaving the Missouri had the appearance of being more and more frequented as we approached the Pawnee towns; and here, instead of a single footway, it consisted of more than twenty parallel paths, of similar size and appearance; at a few miles distance from the village, we met a party of eight or ten squaws, with hoes and other implements of agriculture, on their way to the corn plantations. They were accompanied by one young Indian, but in what capacity—whether as assistant, protector or taskmaster, we were not informed. After a ride of about three hours we arrived before the village and dispatched a messenger to inform the chief of our approach.

"Answer was returned that he was engaged with his chiefs and warriors at a medicine feast, and could not, therefore, come out and meet us. We were soon surrounded by a crowd of women and children, who gazed at us with some expressions of astonishment; but as no one appeared to welcome us to the village, arrangements were made for sending on the horses and baggage to a suitable place for encampment while Major Long, with several gentlemen who wished to accompany him, entered the village. The party after groping about for some time and traversing a considerable part of the village, arrived at the lodge of the principal chief. Here we were again informed that Tarrerecawaho, with all the principal men of the village, was engaged in a medicine feast. Notwithstanding his absence,

some mats were spread for us upon the ground in the back part of the lodge. Upon them we sat down, and, after waiting some time, were presented with a large wooden dish of hominy or boiled corn. In this was a single spoon or the horn of a buffalo, large enough to hold a pint, which, being used alternately by each of the party, soon emptied the dish of its contents.

"After this strange reception and feast the expedition visited in turn the villages of the Republican and Loup (Wolf) Pawnees, lying a few miles apart, an hour's ride above the village of the Pawnee Grand."

Major Long, in his report, further commented on the thrift of these villages. For miles up and down the river large droves of horses were grazing; fields of maize and patches of tomatoes, pumpkins and squashes were seen in many places and added much to the apparent wealth of the community. That was before, and in sharp contrast to, the misfortunes that are soon to be chronicled as having overtaken this nation.

1831. It was about this time that calamities began to overtake the Pawnee nation, which had formerly numbered some 25,000 souls, and in its prime been the terror alike of trapper and trader and bands from other tribes who by chance ventured too far into the hunting grounds of these fierce fighting foes. In 1831, a terrible epidemic of smallpox carried off several thousand of their number, leaving the nation in a pitiable condition. Their agent, John Dougherty, in making his report to the Government, says:—

"Their misery defies all description. I am fully persuaded that one-half the whole number will be carried off by this frightful distemper. They told me that not one under thirty years of age escaped, it having been that length of time since it visited them before. They were dying so fast, and taken down at once in such large numbers that they had ceased to bury their dead, whose bodies were to be seen in every direction—lying in the river, lodged on the sand bars, in the weeds around the villages and in their corn caches."

1832. The removal of the Delawares to lands between the Platte and Kansas rivers led to a war with the Pawnees, and in this year the former tribe burned the great Pawnee village on the Republican River.

1834. Furthermore by treaty of October 9, 1834, the Pawnees sold their lands south and agreed to stay north of the Platte River and west of the Loup River, thereby considerably restricting their territory.

1834-1835. All of the Pawnee's plague-stricken southern villages were abandoned and the miserable remnant of this once proud tribe reassembled on the Loup and westward along the Platte.

1835-1849. In this period, first the Sioux, their old enemies swept down upon the Pawnees, and began a war of extermination along the Cedar and North Loup rivers. The Pawnees found every man's hand against them and even the Government remained indifferent to their fate at the hands of the Sioux. Then, to make matters worse, the Cheyennes and the Arapahoes infested their old Kansas hunting grounds, as if eager to strike the final blow.

1849. The gold seekers on the way to California brought the cholera to the Pawnee camps. Again several thousand died, and the handful of survivors, reduced to beggary, besought the Government for protection, which was granted.

1857. By the treaty of September 4, 1857, the Pawnees ceded all of their original territory except a strip 30 miles long by 15 wide upon the lower Loup River.

This was the old Nance County Reservation, whence they were finally removed to their final abode in Oklahoma.

1862-1865. During the Indian skirmishes that took place in those years, and during the Civil War period, the Pawnees furnished scouts to the Government and proved a valuable aid to the Government against the crafty Sioux, and reaped thereby a small measure of revenge for the time being, but the Sioux, after the war closed, reaped the final revenge upon the Pawnees.

1865-1872. In this period, the Pawnees were never safe if they ventured off their reservation. Red Cloud's crafty bands might sweep down upon them to kill and plunder.

1872. As if to cap the climax of their troubles, in this year they met the grasshopper invasion and their crops were destroyed. This meant starvation, but Congressional appropriation through land sales kept them alive until 1874.

1874. The Pawnees set their faces southward, forever to leave the Loup and the Platte.

The story of the rapid decay of this proud tribe is read in these figures of their numbers:—

1835, according to missionaries Dunbar and Allis, 10,000. In 1840, disease and war had reduced them to 7,500. In 1849, cholera had reduced them to 5,000. Later official reports gave 4,686 in 1856; 3,416 in 1861; 2,376 in 1874; 1,440 in 1879; 824 in 1889; and 629 in 1901.

#### PAWNEE WAR OF 1859

Before closing the narration of the experiences of the Pawnee tribes, there are two further incidents in their history which can be included in the Pawnee division of this Chapter, or elsewhere, but we will briefly treat them before passing on.

The "Pawnee War" occurred in the summer of 1859. At that time the Pawnees were occupying two villages on the south side of the Platte, about twelve miles south of Fontanelle, a village in the western edge of Washington County. This "war" was precipitated by the robbing of a settler, Uriah Thomas, of his pocket book containing \$136 and valuable land papers, drinking up his whiskey, and taking off his fine oxen, leaving him locked up in the cabin. A few days later people from West Point, about thirty miles northwest, and Dewitt, on further up, came in and reported the Pawnee bands to be marauding and committing various depredations upon the settlers, burning their dwellings, destroying their furniture, driving off their stock. After some scouting about the country, a small band of Indians was located about a mile from Fontanelle. In attempting to capture them, two or three Indians were killed as they fled from their intended place of ambush, and soon the whole country was ablaze with excitement. It was generally believed that a retaliating war of extermination would be inaugurated by the Pawnees, and the few militia companies then organized were ordered out by Governor Black to hold themselves ready at a moment's notice. While the settlers along the Elkhorn assembled at Fontanelle in readiness, the crops suffered seriously from neglect, and as the reported band of 10,000 ferociously arrayed savages failed to appear, a band of 200 men prepared to go out and find the savages and render them a lesson that would long live in their memories. Governor Black accompanied the expedition,

as nominal commander, though the real command fell upon Col. (later Governor) John M. Thayer. In a few days' march a band of some 5,000 Pawnees, Omaha and Poncas were overtaken. Instead of putting up stiff fight, when they discovered the paleface expedition in close proximity, the Indians attempted to escape. Later, some 2,000 were brought together for a parley. They were given a choice between surrendering the braves who had committed the depredations around West Point, pay the expenses of the expedition out of certain moneys due to them from the Government, or—fight. They chose the former, surrendered seven young braves, and signed the necessary agreement. In returning they passed the home of one of the imprisoned braves, whose squaw sprang out and handed him a knife with which he stabbed himself. While the whites were ministering to the supposed dying man, the squaw seized the knife, cut the cords binding the other prisoners and made possible their escape. Pursuing guards reported they had either killed or wounded all six of the escaped prisoners and the expedition resumed its return journey. Finally, the Government paid the Indians all that was due them and the expedition paid its own expenses, and thus ended the "Pawnee War."

#### PAWNEE-SIOUX MASSACRE, 1873

On the fifth day of August, 1873, occurred the battle between the Sioux and Pawnee Indians, in what has since come to be known as Massacre Canyon, a ravine about four miles north of the subsequent site of Trenton, Hitchcock County. This episode was about the finishing touch of the Pawnee's military career. About 250 Pawnee men, 100 women and 50 children were on a buffalo hunt, which had lasted since July 3d, and had been sufficiently successful that they were about to return to their reservation with the meat and skins of some 800 buffaloes.

The moment of the attack was early in the morning, when most of the men were hunting straggling buffaloes, and the women were making preparations for the day's journey. The Sioux, comprised of some 600 of the Ogallala and Brule bands, surprised the Pawnees, who briefly resisted but soon fled to avoid being surrounded and completely annihilated. They abandoned all of their possessions, including their winter's supply of meat and other provisions, robes and saddles. Some 69, 20 men, 39 women and 10 children were killed, and 11 women and children captured. The Government had some knowledge of the proximity of the Sioux, and Major Russell of the army, with 60 privates and 20 scouts, was camped within a few miles of the scene of the massacre and was then on his way to intercept the Sioux. When the Sioux discovered the soldiers, they fled to the northwest.

#### MAJOR FRANK NORTH AND THE PAWNEE SCOUTS

In general, the record of the Pawnees in their relations with the whites was much better than most of the other Nebraska tribes. While occasional depredations, and such incidents as precipitated the "Pawnee War" of 1859 stain this record, it cannot be questioned that the Pawnees rendered as valuable service to the whites and the Government as any Nebraska tribe ever did.

As brief a manner as any to explain this to the reader will be to give a short account of the work of Major Frank North and his Pawnee Scouts. In 1856 when Frank North was a young boy, he came to Nebraska and mingled with the

Indians along the Missouri in the region of Omaha, and learned their mode of warfare, their language, which he came to speak as fluently as his mother tongue, and thereby won their confidence. In 1861 he became a clerk and interpreter at the Pawnee reservation, and by 1863 had developed into a daring scout. During the work of building the Union Pacific the fierce Arapahoes, Cheyennes and Sioux persisted in attacking the laborers. A few excerpts from an account by his niece, Mrs. Sarah Clapp, in *Nebraska Pioneer Reminiscences*, will serve not only to explain his work, but the attributes of the Pawnee scouts.

"It was useless to call on the regular troops for help as the Government needed their help to check the armies of Lee and Johnston. A clipping from the *Washington Sunday Herald* on this subject states that 'a happy thought occurred to Mr. Oakes Ames,' the main spirit of the work (of building the Union Pacific). He sent a trusty agent to hunt up Frank North, who was then twenty-four years old. 'What can be done to protect our working parties, Mr. North?' said Mr. Ames. 'I have an idea,' Mr. North answered. 'If the authorities at Washington will allow me to organize a battalion of Pawnees and mount and equip them, I will undertake to picket your entire line and keep off other Indians. The Pawnees are the natural enemies of all the tribes that are giving you so much trouble, and a little encouragement and drill will make them the best irregular horse you could desire.'

"The plan was new but looked feasible. Accordingly, Mr. Ames went to Washington, and, after some effort, succeeded in getting permission to organize a battalion of four hundred Pawnee warriors, who should be armed as were the U. S. Cavalry and drilled in such simple tactics as the service required, and my uncle was commissioned as a major of volunteers and ordered to command them. The newspaper clipping also says: 'It would be difficult to estimate the service of Major North in money value.' General Crook once said, in speaking of him, 'Millions of Government property and hundreds of lives were saved by him on the Union Pacific railroad, and on the Nebraska, Wyoming and Montana frontiers. . . .'

"During the many skirmishes and battles fought by the Pawnees under Major North, he never lost a man; moreover, on several occasions he passed through such hair-breadth escapes that the Pawnees thought him invulnerable. In one instance, while pursuing the retreating enemy, he discovered that his command had fallen back and he was separated from them by over a mile. The enemy, discovering his plight, turned on him. He dismounted, being fully armed, and by using his horse as a breastwork, he managed to reach his troops again, though his faithful horse was killed. This and many like experiences caused the Pawnees to believe that their revered leader led a charmed life. He never deceived them, and they loved to call him 'Little Pawnee Le-Sharo' (Pawnee Chief), so he was known as the White Chief of the Pawnees."

So, just as the settler was compelled to use back-firing to fight prairie fires, the Government and settlers were enabled to "fight the fire of other tribes with the fire of the Pawnee's valor" in the eleventh hour of this tribe's Nebraska career.

#### THE SIOUX

The tribe that probably played the next greatest part in Nebraska Indian history, or at least in the last three decades of the Indians and white settlers' cohabitation in this territory, was the Sioux.



Prof. H. W. Fought, in his "Trail of the Loup" gives a short historical account of this tribe, which will serve to introduce them to the reader, before any chronological survey of their Nebraska career is undertaken.

"The Sioux belonged to one of the most widely extended and important Indian families of North America. In the very earliest days of the advent of the white men they appear to have held sway on the Atlantic seaboard, around the Virginias and Carolinas. They later abandoned their sedentary and agricultural tendencies and roamed to the banks of the Ohio. From their own traditions it is accounted that the Sioux parted company with the Winnebagoes at some point on the Ohio, probably near the mouth of the Wabash, and crossed northeasterly through Illinois, and took possession of the headwaters of the Mississippi. In the meantime other tribes of that great family reached the Mississippi until they came to the Missouri, there dividing, some of them going southward to Arkansas. The portion called the 'Omahas' ascended the Missouri and made their home in eastern Nebraska. The Poncas and Iowas are also usually classed as belonging to this Sioux family, as well as the Otoes, Peorias, and Missouris, first mentioned by Father Marquette in 1673. But the Sioux were the most important of the Siouan stock. The Sioux called themselves Dakotah, Nakotah, or Lakotah, according to their respective dialects, a name signifying 'allies.' But from the early French designation of 'Nadaousioux' a shortening brought it down to the modern 'Sioux.' This warlike nation early relinquished sedentary habits and became roaming buffalo hunters. For many years the Niobrara River in Nebraska formed the line of demarkation between the Sioux and Pawnees. In 1837 the Sioux sold to the Government all their claims to lands east of the Mississippi; in 1851, relinquished the greater part of Minnesota and Dakota. In 1857, they expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of their treaty relations by the Government by a massacre of white settlers at Spirit Lake, Iowa, and, in 1862, their chieftain, Little Crow, led a warfare upon the outlying settlements in Minnesota, and took advantage of the Government's embarrassments consequent upon the Civil war. This bitter war lasted until 1869, when they were driven out of Minnesota by General Sibley.

While Little Crow and his bands escaped to Canada, Red Cloud and his cohorts came to Nebraska, where they started a long struggle.

The valley of the Platte was then the thoroughfare to California. Plainsmen dared not cross in small companies and the pioneers were forced to arm to the teeth. The trail from the Missouri to the Rockies then became marked with bleaching bones, burnt wagons and rotting harness."

1832. The first great manifestation of the Sioux after white settlement was feebly attempted in Nebraska was in 1832 in what is now Jefferson County. Near the junction of the Big Sandy and the Little Blue rivers was fought one of the most desperate battles ever waged on the American continent. In this encounter the Sioux met defeat at the hands of the Pawnees, and it proved to be the Waterloo of the Plains for some three decades, and gave the Pawnees mastery of the Nebraska country at that time. According to best accounts, 16,000 savages participated in the conflict. The Pawnees were under the command of the chief Tac-po-ha-na, while the Sioux were led by Oco-no-me-woe, of whom it is claimed the celebrated Sioux chief, Sitting Bull, is a lineal descendant. The struggle for supremacy lasted three days and the Sioux were completely worsted, losing over 3,000 men. The Pawnees sustained a loss of 2,000 men. The story of this encounter was told to Mr.

D. C. Jenkins, who narrated it to the first chronicler who preserved it for Nebraska historical traditions by Monsieur Mont Crevie, an old French trader, who claimed to have spent forty years of his life among the Indians of the plains and mountains and had married a squaw in every tribe where he could find one who would have him. The facts are also further corroborated by an old blind Pawnee warrior who claimed to have been the only survivor of the terrible conflict. This last claim must have been incorrect for there were doubtless many other survivors among the Indians met by the first settlers of the various counties.

1832-1844. It will be noticed in the chapter hereafter following giving the order and chronology of the settlements of the various communities in Nebraska that between 1810, when the first post was established at Bellevue, and 1819, when Fort Atkinson was attempted sixteen miles north of present Omaha, and 1844, there were no really permanent white settlements made in Nebraska.

The early annals of the river counties in eastern Nebraska attribute many Indian residences to that territory in that period. Then for the next twenty-five years after 1844, when the early permanent settlements began along the Missouri River side of Nebraska, many encounters with Indians are recorded. Most of these are of too small a scope for us to take the space to chronicle them, so only the more important ones will be sketched here.

Probably Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Kearney, Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Keith, and old Cheyenne counties suffered from Indians during the early settlement periods more than any other counties, because largely through these counties the old "Oregon trails" and the western and more unprotected end of the other Overland trails, traversed.

#### DEPREDACTIONS

1864. The effect upon the settlements then already made in Nebraska of the outbreaks of the Sioux, especially in Dawson, Buffalo, Adams, Nuckolls and Thayer counties, can be well conveyed by an excerpt from the old Hebron Journal, by E. M. Correll.

"The attention of the whole nation was occupied by the great war of the Rebellion in 1864, so that the Indian raid of that year, the most carefully planned and skillfully executed known in the history of the western frontier, received but little attention and seemed in comparison of so little importance as scarcely to deserve a place in National history.

"Yet the military strategy and precision, and the secrecy and success and the cool butchery and cruelty of the attack, make it Napoleonic in its design and execution, and should place it on the pages of history alongside of the other great and bloody butchery by savages. At this time, many ranches dotted the great military road at intervals of a few miles. These ranches had become in many instances valuable farms, with substantial improvements, graced by woman's tasteful care. A number of such ranches were in Thayer County upon and contiguous to the Government road. The Indians had been peaceful and quiet for a long time, and the settlers along the road were prosperous and happy. Without a single note of warning the crisis came. From Denver City to Big Sandy, a distance of over six hundred miles, near the middle of the day, at precisely the same time, along the whole distance a simultaneous attack was made upon the ranches. No time was

given for couriers, no time for concentration, no time for the erection or strengthening of places of defense, but as the eagle swoops down upon his prey, the savage warriors attacked the defenseless white men. No principle of kingly courtesy actuated the breasts of the painted assailants. It mattered little to them that they were in vastly superior numbers, and the opponents in part women and children. All alike were made to feel their cruelty or their lust. No mercy was shown. No captives were taken but women, and death was preferred to the captivity that awaited them. Could the eastern philanthropists who speak so flatteringly of the 'noble red man of the West' have witnessed the cruel butchery of unoffending children, the disgrace of women, who were first horribly mutilated and then slain, the cowardly assassination of husbands and fathers, they might, perhaps (if fools can learn), be impressed with their true character. On the morning of the 7th of August, Indians must have been secreted in the ravines (of which there are many adjacent to the military road), and, at a given hour, rushed forth and commenced their work of destruction. At morn, the Government road was a traveled thoroughfare, dotted with prosperous and happy homes; at night, a wilderness, strewn with mangled bodies and wrecks, and illuminated with the glare of burning homes."

1862-1867. Since the depredations of the period of the Civil war, and especially the outbreak of 1864, was the most widespread and universal encounter between the settlers and the Indians, a short synopsis of the experiences of the various counties, then very well settled, will be given at this point.

#### DAWSON COUNTY

The most notable incident of this period was the massacre of a train, eleven in number, near Plum Creek on August 7th. This took place near the telegraph station, and the people there believing it was the outbreak of an extensive Indian war, immediately dispatched word to the settlers at Wood River Center, Grand Island and points farther east.

Lieutenant Governor Hopewell of Nebraska, as late as November, 1908, narrated to S. C. Bassett, compiler of a History of Buffalo County, that he was a "bull-whacker" on a Government freight train of twenty-five wagons, with six to eight yoke of oxen each. While the conditions along the trail in early July, 1864, were so peaceful that men even neglected sometimes to carry arms, and they received almost daily visits from scattered Indians, mostly Pawnees, friendly in nature and generally begging in purpose, they saw as early as July 6th, near Plum Creek, where the Indians had committed some depredations. Near O'Fallon's Bluff the train passed through a large camp of Cheyenne Indians (old men and women) and a day or two journey farther east saw a large body of Indian warriors. The train was not molested, but when it arrived at Plum Creek found where the train of eleven wagons had been destroyed and there were a large number of fresh graves along the trail.

#### BUFFALO AND HALL COUNTIES

The actual massacre incident to this raid, or series of raids, did not penetrate as far east as the scanty settlements of these counties. But on August 9th, James Oliver and Thomas Morgan, settlers on Wood River, at the eastern edge of Buffalo

County, had gone to Fort Kearney with a load of vegetables, and left their wives and children to keep company together. While there, the officers at the Fort received word of the massacre in Dawson County, and another settler named Cook who was also at the Fort was sent to warn the people around Wood River Center (now Shelton). The homes of the settlers then living in that vicinity were some built of logs and some of sod, and extended from the Boyd ranch (the home of J. E. Boyd, afterwards governor of the state) about one mile west of present town of Gibbon, on down the south side of the Platte to the present Grand Island. With very few exceptions all of the settlers from the Boyd ranch down to Grand Island immediately packed their belongings and fled eastward, most of them never stopping until they reached the colony at Columbus, and many passing on east and not returning. There were about eighteen families in the community near the present town of Wood River, in western Hall County, and Wood River Center, now Shelton, in eastern Buffalo County. In addition to those named, Boyd, Morgan and Oliver, there were Sol Reese, Storey, Nutter, Sol Richmond, Highler, Richard, Anthony and Patrick Moore, Edmund O'Brien, Dugdale, Ted, Jack and Bob Oliver, Bill Eldridge, Squire Lamb and Fred Adams. Most of this colony returned after the scare.

#### HALL COUNTY MASSACRES

Prior to this, on February 5, 1862, Hall County had experienced one incident that was sufficient to place the fear of the Indians pretty strongly in the hearts of the settlers of that vicinity. Joseph P. Smith and Anderson, his son-in-law, farmers on Wood River about twelve miles west of Grand Island, were out after some logs on the north channel of the Platte River on that date, accompanied by the two sons, William eleven years and Charles nine years of age. Anderson took home a load of logs and on his return found Mr. Smith and the two boys brutally massacred by the Sioux Indians. The old man Smith had several arrows in his body and was lying on the ice with his face down, holding each of the boys by one hand.

In August, 1864, two boys, Nathaniel and Robert Martin, were helping their father in the hayfield. The two boys were mounted on a fleet pony and when some Sioux Indians showed up, were making good their escape toward the shelter of the log house and barns at the ranch when an arrow pinned them together.

Passing on to 1867, Hall County experienced two more sad losses at the hands of these Indians. One was the attack on the Campbell ranch on July 24, 1867. No men being at home, the house was captured, a woman, Mrs. Thurston Warren, killed by a gunshot, and her son by an arrow. The two nieces of Mr. Campbell, aged nineteen and seventeen, were carried away with twin boys four years old, and a German, named Henry Dose, was killed close by. The Indians robbed the house, killed some stock, and escaped unmolested. Months later the Government bought the two girls from the Indians for \$4,000, and as extra compensation released an Indian squaw who had been captured by Ed. Arnold's Pawnee scouts, at Elm Creek, that season. Of the children captured, three were living, at least recently. They are Mrs. J. P. Dunlap of Dwight, Nebraska, Peter Campbell, of Wahoo, Nebraska (in Lincoln, in 1919), and Daniel, who in 1919 was living in Ohio.

A few months later two boys, Chris Geotseh and Henry Frauen, were killed in a raid some thirty miles from Grand Island, on the Loup River, near the present site of Dannebrog.

That there were not more casualties in Hall County during the raid of 1864 was probably due to the fact that the German settlement, of some thirty or forty families living south of the present city of Grand Island, had built a fort in 1862. This was a fortified log house, 24x24 in size and with 25 port holes, had a well inside. This "Fort Independence" and the further fortified O. K. store, so protected this colony that they did not join in the exodus that was taking place up and down the valley, and escaped the troublesome period without loss of life.

#### THAYER COUNTY AT HANDS OF RAIDS

Capt. H. E. Palmer, in his "History of the Powder River Expedition of 1865" (Nebraska State Historical Society, Vol. II), described the carnage in Thayer County resulting from the raids of the Sioux in 1864, as follows:—

"On my way out, near Big Sandy, now Alexandria, I met a party of freighters and stage coach passengers on horseback, and some few ranchmen, fleeing from the Little Blue Valley. They told me a terrible story, that the Indians were just in their rear and how they had massacred the people just west of them, none knew how many. After camping for dinner at this place, and seeing the last citizen disappear toward the States, I pushed on toward the Little Blue, camping in the valley, and saw two Indians about five miles away on a hill as I went into camp. The next day passed Ewbanks (Ubanks) ranch, and found there little children from three to seven years old, who had been taken by the heels and swung around against the cabin beating their heads into a jelly. The hired girl was found some fifteen rods from the ranch, staked out on the prairie, tied by her hands and feet, naked, and her body full of arrows and horribly mangled. Not far from this was the body of Ewbanks, whiskers cut off, body most fearfully mutilated. The buildings had been burned and the ruins still smoking. Nearly the same scene of desolation and murder was witnessed at Spring ranch."

He narrates further that this raid on the Little Blue was made by the Cheyenne Sioux under the command of Black Kettle, One-Eyed George Bent, Two Faces and others. Mrs. Ewbanks and Miss Laura Boyer were carried away captives, and were ransomed from the Indians, who brought them to Fort Laramie in January, 1865. This band of Indians, Captain Palmer says, was attacked by Colorado troops under the command of Col. J. M. Chivington, on November 29, 1864, in their camp on Sand Creek, about one hundred and ten miles southeast of Denver, and some six hundred men, women and children killed. It was supposed this Chivington victory would stop this tribe from its course, but the Cheyenne and Arapahoes seemed determined to go ahead. On the 7th of January, 1865, more than one thousand Indians appeared suddenly before Fort Julesburg, and in a battle that ensued for several hours, fourteen soldiers and fifty-six Indians were killed. An expedition under command of General Mitchell started from Fort Cottonwood down the Republican Valley on January 16, 1865, and went through twelve days of terrible suffering in below zero weather in this pursuit.

#### GENERAL CARR'S BATTLE WITH THE SIOUX

1869. In June, 1869, an expedition commanded by Gen. E. A. Carr, of the Fifth Cavalry, with eight companies of regular troops and three companies of

Pawnee scouts under command of Major Frank North, started down the Republican Valley to clear it of these marauders. At a point which was called Summit Springs, in the corner of Colorado, the Indians, comprising Sioux and "Dogsoldiers," renegades from various tribes, were completely routed. Fifty-two of them, including Tall Bull, were killed. Two women, Mrs. Susannah Alderdice and Mrs. Weichel, were in camp, where Tall Bull had kept them as wives since their capture on the Saline River in Kansas. These he shot rather than risk their capture, but Mrs. Weichel was saved and a large purse raised in camp for her benefit. Even after this episode the Buck surveying party was massacred, captured or otherwise disappeared, and a Daugherty party narrowly escaped such a fate.

However, this appears to have been the last time the Indians resisted the military in this part of Nebraska, and no serious losses were suffered after that, except the famous Cheyenne raid of 1878.

1878. Without going into the dramatic story of the flight of the Cheyenne from their reservation in Indian Territory, where they had been placed two years before, to their old haunts in the Black Hills, suffice it to say that three hundred of that tribe, under the leadership of Dull Knife, Little Wolf, Wild Hog and Old Crow, comprising but eighty-nine warriors, the remainder being women and children, crossed the Nebraska-Kansas boundary line on October 1, 1878. They eluded the detachments of soldiers and posses of civilians for some weeks, and were not brought to bay until they reached the northwestern corner of the state. There, in a winter campaign, they were practically exterminated. They had killed thirty-two people in Rawlins and Decatur counties, Kansas, but so far as known only one man lost his life in Nebraska, George Rowley, who kept a "cowcamp" at Wauneta Falls.

1876. The next determined stand of the Sioux in a military way does not belong to Nebraska history. That was the campaign of 1876-77, which came upon the heels of the discovery of gold in the Black Hills and the white man's exodus into that region. The main event of that campaign was the surprise and massacre of the intrepid Gen. George A. Custer and his entire command of nearly three hundred regular troops in the bluffs of the Little Big Horn country under the leadership of Sitting Bull. Four days later General Crook arrived upon the battlefield, and in a series of fights took summary revenge upon the Indians. Of these Sitting Bull with several thousand followers escaped to Canada where he remained till 1881, when he returned on promise of amnesty.

1890. Another treaty had been made in 1889, by which the Sioux surrendered the richest lands of the "Great Sioux reservation" embracing all of South Dakota west of the Missouri, for five small distinct reservations and certain annuities. In 1890 another small outbreak of treachery was attempted at Wounded Knee, on the White River, by a band which had voluntarily surrendered. When this affray, which had threatened the extermination of the unsuspecting regulars was over, some three hundred reds were dead. In this war, old Sitting Bull and members of his family were killed, December 15, 1890, by soldiers sent to arrest him.

The Sioux were typical nomad hunters and warriors. Numerically and physically strong, they made themselves masters of the buffalo plains, no other tribes being able to make a successful stand against them. The census of 1900 placed the nation at 24,000, distributed as follows:—Canada (refugees from U. S.) 600; Minnesota, 930; Montana, 1,180; Nebraska (Santee Agency) 1,310; North Dakota,

4,630; South Dakota (Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge and Rosebud Agencies) 15,480.

## OTHER TRIBES OF INDIANS

## THE OMAHAS

This tribe, a part of the Dakotas, or Dakotah Sioux, formerly resided north of the Missouri River, in Dakota. But being harassed by other tribes of the Sioux family, it is supposed they moved into Nebraska early in the eighteenth century. Marquette represents them on his map in 1673.

1766. Cover found them on the St. Peter's, where they formed two tribes—the Hongashonos, and the Ishbanondas, or Grey Eyes—divided into fourteen clans, one of which preserved a sacred shell in a rude temple.

1780. By this time they were traced to a point on the Missouri, at or near the mouth of the Big Sioux River, and soon afterwards crossed to the west side of the Missouri and settled on the Niobrara.

1804. Lewis and Clark found them, numbering about six hundred. Being pursued relentlessly by the Sioux and greatly reduced in numbers by smallpox, they burned their village on the Niobrara and removed to the Blackbird Hills. Blackbird is the name that was first given to present Thurston County.

1815-1830. Treaties were made with them on July 20, 1815, September 20, 1825, and July 15, 1830, ceding lands at Council Bluffs (Fort Calhoun as now known) for an annuity, blacksmith shop and agricultural implements.

1830. After the treaty of 1830, they formed their villages at Bellevue, south of present city of Omaha, and near the trading post of Col. Peter A. Sarpy, and at Saling's Grove, where they remained until June, 1855.

1839. Overtures of peace between the Omaha and their relentless enemies the Sioux failed of accomplishment. A mission established with them by Presbyterian authorities failed of much success.

1843. The Omahas returned to their villages and made peace with certain bands of the Sioux.

1846. Another mission established with them had but little more success than that of 1839.

1854. March 16th. A treaty was made by which the Omahas ceded their lands adjoining the Missouri, and north of the Platte and towards the Elkhorn.

1855. In July of this year, their great chief Logan Fontanelle was killed by the Sioux while on a hunting expedition. In this year, this tribe removed to their reservation of 345,000 acres set forth for them by the Government, in Blackbird, now Thurston County.

1879. Their number had dwindled to a population of 1,050.

## THE OTOES

The Otoes belonged to the Dakota family and were originally a part of the Missouris. Their home in Nebraska was originally on the west bank of the Missouri River about thirty miles north of the mouth of the Platte River. They were of a wandering disposition, frequently moving about from point to point.

1673. The French reported on them under name of Attanka, but they called themselves Wahoohtahta.

1819-20. Major Long in his reports upon them asserted that the Otoes were a band from a great nation living at the head of the Mississippi River, from whom they separated in about 1724, coming west to the Missouri River, their first settlement in Nebraska being near the mouth of the Great Nemaha River. Their next camping ground was on the Platte, fifteen or twenty miles from the mouth, from which camp some of their chiefs probably visited the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804, at the latter's camp on the bluffs of the Missouri, sixteen miles above Omaha, from which incident the place derived its name of Council Bluff.

1817-1854. Treaties were made with them on June 24, 1817, and September 26, 1825, and by the treaty of March 25, 1854, the confederated tribes of Otoes and Missouris ceded their rights to the lands lying along the Missouri, and were removed to a reservation of 16,000 acres on the southeastern border of the state. This site was largely in what is now the south part of Gage County, and lapped over into the southeast corner of Jones County—now Jefferson—and took in some land in Marshall and Washington counties, Kansas.

1879. A new treaty was made whereby these Indians were to sell their lands and remove to Indian Territory.

1881. After the foregoing mentioned sale, the Otoes and Missouris moved to Indian Territory.

#### WINNEBAGOES

This tribe is a part of the Dakota family.

1793. Lived then in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

1863. After several treaties had been made with them, they moved to Crow Creek, in Dakota, above Fort Randall. That place was unsuited to them, and afforded no means of livelihood. Deaths were so numerous from disease, war and famine, that but 1,222 were left out of 1,985. They left there and came to the Omaha reservation and applied for shelter.

1866. May. Removed to Winnebago, to commence anew. They are a quiet, peaceable people, generally wearing citizens' clothing. They lived during the '80s in houses, built for them, and did not maintain a regular village. They played no active part in Indian annals of Nebraska.

#### PONCAS

This tribe resided for many years on a reservation near the mouth of the Niobrara River, in Dakota Territory. They were originally a branch of the Mahas or Omahas, and resided on the Red River of the North. Losing so greatly from repeated attacks by the Sioux, they removed to the opposite side of the Missouri River and built a fortified village on the Ponca River. While they united with the Omaha, they generally kept apart.

1804-1832. They were small in number when the visit of Lewis and Clark was made. By treaties of June 28, 1817, and June 9, 1825, they improved somewhat, and in 1832 numbered 750.

1858. March 12th. They sold their lands to the Government and went on a



reservation near the Yauktons, the compensation to be in installments of \$185,000 with the support of their schools and agricultural aid. Prior to this treaty, the Poncas had not received very good protection under their treaty relations and their lands had been considerably invaded and seized by squatter settlers. But from the day they signed away what land rights they had left, in 1858, their real sufferings began. The Government failed to keep full faith with them much of the money appropriated was stolen by dishonest agents and contractors, and their old enemy, the Sioux, robbed them of whatever the white man overlooked.

1874. The Poncas now numbered 730 and 132 half-breeds. They were then assigned to the care of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

1876. It was decided to remove them to a reservation in Indian Territory. By this time, the Poncas had acquired many of the arts of civilization, and it was hard for them to leave the home they had lived in for so many years. Forcibly removed from their homes, they were compelled to march on a long weary journey of three months to their new homes.

1879. Thirty of this tribe, with Standing Bear as their chief, left their southern reservation and returned to the Omaha reserve. A detachment of soldiers was ordered to take them back. But this proceeding resulted in some interesting litigation. Upon their arrival at Omaha, a writ of habeas corpus was sued out, and heard before Judge Dundy, of the United States Court, wherein Hon. A. J. Poppleton and J. L. Webster volunteered their services. This came up on May 2d, and after a careful hearing they were released from custody. Judge Dundy decided that an Indian is a "person" within the intent and purpose of the constitution and released the prisoners. They were finally restored to the old Omaha reserve home and allowed to remain there in contentment.

#### IOWAS, SACS AND FOX

These three tribes, about 1880, occupied a reservation in the southeastern corner of the state, extending over into Kansas. These tribes never played a very great part in Nebraska Indian annals.

#### WESTERN NEBRASKA TRIBES

Considerable mention has been made in the foregoing account of the Sioux in Nebraska of the tribes that dwelt mainly in western and southwestern Nebraska.

*The Arapahoes and Cheyennes* occupied Nebraska as roaming tribes. They were pressed by the Sioux from the east and the Shoshones from the west. The southwestern section of the state, including Dundy and Chase counties, together with the high plains of eastern Colorado, were occupied by the Arapahoe and Cheyennes, who, from a time antedating the coming of the white men had held the headwaters of the Republican and its largest western tributary, the Frenchman, against the aggressions of all other tribes.

Before the advent of railroads, settlements were slow in southwestern Nebraska, and that territory was off the regular trails. The Oregon and California trails to the north and Smoky Hill route to south, kept operations away from this part of the country until the late '60s.

## BATTLE OF AUGUST 6, 1860

For several years, before the beginning of the Civil war, bands of Kiowas and Comanches had been ranging up in this vicinity, and in rounding them up on the pursuit northward, a detachment of troops, under command of Captain Sturgis, located them near the Republican fork, north of Beaver Creek. Twenty-nine were killed in the long, hard skirmishes that resulted.

## BATTLE OF ASH HALLOW

Several battles had been fought along the North Platte, between 1850 and 1860, in keeping these western Nebraska Indians rounded up. The most notable in Nebraska annals of these skirmishes was that at Ash Hallow, where General Harney defeated a large body of Indians, in 1855. It was at this battle that General Harney received the title of "The Hornet" from the Indians. Little Thunder, afterward a Brule chief, in describing this fight to W. M. Hinman, then interpreter at Fort McPherson (in Lincoln County) says the Indians called General Harney "The Hornet" because in this encounter they considered themselves badly stung.

## WHITE MAN'S TREATMENT OF THE RED MAN

There are two sides to every question, and while many are the terrible depredations and heartless, relentless cruelties detailed in the foregoing pages, as suffered by the hardy white pioneers at the hands of the redskins, there are those among the pioneers, who relate the other side of this question. When the white man came he found the original American, the Indian, in possession of all the vast acres of fair Nebraska. For centuries this had been his hunting-ground and home, undisturbed.

Then comes in the paleface, who not only takes the acres to live upon, cuts down such timbers as he needs, or clears such land as he wishes to cultivate, but the whites wasted timber by the thousands of acres in those early decades, just as they wasted the precious meat of the waning, disappearing bison and buffalo. No less an authority than Buffalo Bill narrated that he alone had killed over 2,000 buffaloes for a railroad camp in Kansas. As one settler of Hall County has expressed it for the compiler of these pages:

"Everybody was shooting the Indians' meat supply, and most of it rotted away on the prairie for nothing. This grieved the Indians' heart beyond expression, and it created a hatred or revenge against the 'palefaces' or 'Chickestalkers.' What more did the white man do? He swindled, lied, corrupted, where he had a chance toward the Indian, and some more villainous of our race even sold the redmen smallpox infected blankets, causing their death in great numbers."

Many pioneers have expressed the wonder that the Indians got mad at last and turned out to be most unmerciful brutes to the white man. Other students of the time have attributed, in part, the raids of 1864, to the assurances of the Mormons that retaliation could be taken upon the Government while it was busy with the southern secessionists. Some settlers, in reflecting upon these things have even wondered that the redskin allowed the paleface to stay at all. The white man writes the history, and whatever the redskin would say, could he record these pages, his age in Nebraska is mostly past. Except for the few now living on reservations in the corners of the state, the present generation of Nebraskans cannot come in touch first-hand to form their judgment.

## CHAPTER III

### "THE BIRTH OF A STATE"

#### *Before Territorial Days*

DISCOVERERS—THE QUEST OF QUIVERA—FRENCH EXPLORATIONS—NEBRASKA UNDER FRENCH AND SPANISH RULES—AMERICAN EXPLORATIONS—LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION—THE ASTORIAN EXPEDITION—LONG'S EXPEDITION—TRAIL BLAZERS—GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN NEBRASKA TERRITORY—THE MORMONS—THE GOLD HUNTERS—"LIFE ON THE PLAINS"—OVERLAND TRAILS—"HAVE YOU AN EYE?"—OREGON TRAIL—OTHER TRAILS—DECLINE OF THESE TRAILS—STAGE COACHES—PONY EXPRESS SYSTEM—THEN AND NOW.

#### BEFORE THE TERRITORIAL DAYS

The history of Nebraska naturally begins with the history of the United States, or even to take the point still finer, with the history of the Continent. Wherever each individual student of history will agree that the history of the United States begins, there might we begin the history of Nebraska. But it is unnecessary to consume pages of the earlier history of our Nation. But there are a few events preceeding the actual formation of Nebraska into a territory, or even preceeding the first encroachment of the white man upon the native possessor of this vast, fertile empire, The American Indian.

#### DISCOVERERS

When Christopher Columbus dared to adventure where others feared to go, and by his single voyage revealed to the astonished gaze of Europe the existence of undreamed lands of wonder and beauty, he welded the first link in a chain of explorations and discoveries that paved the way for the great Middle West of America, and the garden-spot we love to call Nebraska. So to trace the evolution of Nebraska, we will briefly dwell upon the more important of these events.

By striking from the enslaved and paralyzed mind of the Eastern Hemisphere, and banishing the chains of fear and ignorance, Columbus opened up to the descendants of European peoples the fertile plains of Nebraska just as much as any other part of the United States.

In 1493, the year following, the pope granted to the King and Queen of Spain "all countries inhabited by infidels." Of course, at that time the extent of the great continent discovered by Columbus was not known, but, in a vague way, the papal grant included Nebraska.

Of course, other voyagers had traversed the Atlantic and in recent years, conflicting claims have been made, tending to bestow the honor of discovering this hemisphere upon other explorers than Columbus, but to all of these hardy, daring pioneers belong the honor of opening to the world the great country.

1493-1500. About 1496, Henry VII of England, granted to John Cabot and his sons a patent of possession and trade to "all lands they may discover and claim in the name of the English crown." Between then and the end of that century, the Cabots explored the Atlantic Coast and made discoveries upon which England claimed practically all of the central part of North America.

1500-1539. Further northward, the French, through the discoveries of Jacques Cartier, laid claim to the valley of the St. Lawrence River and the region about the Great Lakes, from which they pushed their explorations westward toward the headwaters of the Mississippi River, and southward into the valley of the Ohio.

None of these expeditions yet affected the Missouri River region, but they laid the foundations for the struggle that opens American history, wherein three great nations—England, France and Spain—were contesting for this new "garden plot of the world." The people of all western Europe had been enmeshed throughout the fifteenth century in the feudal ideas handed down to them from centuries preceding. During the early sixteenth century, they began to emerge from this enveloping worship of the few, and for the first time since the modern Europe had arisen from the fragments of the Roman Empire were its governments coming into the hands of able rulers. The common people of each country were beginning to think for themselves along the currents that evolved the influences and motives that from one to three hundred years later drove their descendants across the broad Atlantic and impelled them half-way across the undeveloped Western Continent to the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri valleys.

In November, 1519, Hernando Cortez, with a strong force of Spanish soldiery, entered Mexico, captured Montezuma, the "Mexican Emperor," and after a two years' war succeeded in establishing Spanish supremacy. Cortez soon afterwards fell into disfavor with Spanish authorities, but he had planted the seeds of Spanish supremacy. This event is in a way far removed from Nebraska's direct history, but the stamp of Spain which he and his companions placed upon the western hemisphere made itself felt in the earlier history of Nebraska and her neighbor states.

The Spaniards maintained their government over the Mexican region by military governors until in 1580, when Antonio de Mendoza was appointed viceroy, with almost unlimited powers. He was known as the "good viceroy." Under Mendoza and his successors, many Indians were converted to the Catholic faith and exploration and settlement were pushed northward into Texas, New Mexico and California.

1541-2. Hernando De Soto and his expedition came into the interior of the United States. He had left Cuba, of which he was governor, on May 12, 1539, with about one thousand men, for the purpose of exploring the interior of Florida. Like all Spanish explorers, his chief object was to find rich mines of precious metals. He wandered on until he came to the Mississippi River in the spring of 1541. He died on his way to the Spanish settlements in Mexico, but his name has lived as the discoverer of the lower Mississippi, and upon the report made by those of his expedition who returned to Florida, Spain claimed "all the land bordering on the Grande River and the Gulf of Mexico."

## THE QUEST OF QUIVERA

1541. But it was from the far southland came the first adventurers who came near enough, if not actually upon Nebraskan soil, to bring the white man's story up to this vicinity. It fell to the lot of the romantic Spaniard to shed poetic glamour over the first pages of Nebraska history. It was the far-famed expedition of Cavalier Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, which left Compostela, Mexico, on February 23, 1540, and reached "the 40th degree of latitude" according to tradition, in 1541. A wanderer, called "Stephen the Moor" who returned from a search in the Sierra Mountains and the plains of what is now western United States, with stories of the "seven cities of Cibola" started the quest in Coronado's heart. Coronado left with 300 Spanish soldiers and 800 natives. Three accounts of his famed expedition, one by himself, one by his lieutenant, Jaramillo, and the third by a private soldier named Castaneda, all agree that they reached the seven cities of the fables, but found only seven insignificant villages. Chagrined by the failure of his prospects, Coronado, instead of returning, pushed forward. The winter of 1540-1 was spent in fierce warfare with Indian tribes, and upon those vanquished, the story of Spanish cruelty burns into American Indian history, a sad chapter against the Christian conquerors. At this juncture an Indian warrior appeared before Coronado with a strange story about "the great kingdom of Quivera" many leagues to the northeast. It was pictured as a wonderful land, "with its river seven miles wide, in which fishes large as horses were found; its immense canoes; its trees hung with golden bells, and dishes of solid gold." This remarkable tale had its effect on the Spaniards, who took the bait, and were led some 700 miles away into the wild interior. In July the expedition, which had been simmered down to thirty picked men before it left the Texan country, reached a group of tepee villages near the border line between Kansas and Nebraska. Coronado, satisfied at last that he had been duped by his guide, hanged that unfortunate to a tree on the banks of a stream which may have been the Republican or the Blue, in Nebraska. Farther to the north, he was told, was another large stream, presumably the Platte. But no records are left to show that he approached this river any nearer. But thus far, it is known, that he turned eastward, marching until he reached the banks of a "large tributary of the Mississippi," no doubt the Missouri. And there he set up a cross with the inscription: "Thus far came Francisco de Coronado, General of an Expedition."

Much discussion has ensued as to whether Coronado ever really set foot upon Nebraska soil. Judge James W. Savage, whose interesting paper upon this subject is published in the Nebraska State Historical Society Report, of 1880, argues that Coronado could not have failed to reach the Platte or at least the Republican in Nebraska. Coronado's own record that he reached the 40th latitude may have placed him north of the Kansas line or may not have. It is the consensus of opinion among students of this question that the Quivera Indians were probably the Wichitas—that the true site of "Quivera" is probably in the valley of the Kansas River in the vicinity of Fort Riley.

In any event, when Coronado turned his back to this portion of the United States, the darkness of barbarism settled down for more than another century.

1599. Don Juan de Onate led an expedition from New Mexico, which is reputed to have reached Quivera, in 1599. He described his arrival at the City of Quivera, "which is on the north bank of a wide and shallow river." If the conjecture that

this is the Platte River is correct, a battle he described with the Escanzaques would have been upon Nebraska soil. But not much credence is placed in this romantic story, and no permanent effect was left upon Nebraska history, to say the least.

1662. This was the year of the mythical expedition of Don de Penalosa, called the "Duke of Penelosa." He is reputed to have come upon a war party of the Escanzaques, in that summer, "near a wide and rapid river." These Indians were reputed to live near the 40th latitude, and his story of a village, situated in the vicinity of the Platte River, with thousands of houses, circular in shape, some two to even four stories in height, is not credited seriously in Nebraska history.

#### FRENCH EXPLORATIONS

Spain had made no direct effort to civilize the vast region she already laid claim to by right of discovery. But France and England, in the meantime, were becoming rivals for the affections and possession of these new fields of conquest. England was establishing herself along the Atlantic Coast and her adventurous progress did not touch this central western region yet. But France was gaining a foothold on Quebec and pushing her hold up the St. Lawrence River.

The first men to enter upon a systematic exploration of the vast region of which Nebraska is a part were the Jesuits, or members of the Society of Jesus, a famous religious society founded by Ignatius Loyola, a Spanish knight of the sixteenth century.

1611. As early as 1611, the Jesuit missionaries from the French settlement in Canada were among the Indians who inhabited the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Like the Cortez Spanish explorations, this was too far away to affect Nebraska directly, but was paving the way for the oncoming attention.

1665. Claude Allouez, one of the most zealous of these Jesuit fathers, visited the Indians in the vicinity of Ashland Bay, on Lake Superior, and held a conference with a number of tribes. In 1668, Allouez and another missionary, Father Claude Dablon, founded the mission of St. Mary's, the oldest white settlement within the present state of Michigan. The next step forward was a council at St. Mary's in 1671, led by Nicholas Perrot. In that same year, Father Jacques Marquette, another Jesuit missionary, founded the mission at Point St. Ignace, for the benefit of the Huron Indians, a point regarded for years as the key to the then unexplored West.

On May 17, 1673, Marquette, with Louis Joliet, a young fur trader, set out on a perilous undertaking. After a month of steady pushing forward, paddling in canoes along the swift currents of unknown streams, and threading their way through dense forests, on June 17th they reached the mouth of the Wisconsin, near the present site of Dubuque, Iowa. They drifted on down the Mississippi, past the mouth of the Missouri, and on down to the mouth of the Ohio. They brought the emblazoned trail of travel a little closer to the unlocked bosoms of the Nebraska prairies.

1682. But it remained for another intrepid Frenchman to complete the work left unfinished by Marquette and Joliet, and take formal possession of Louisiana in the name of the King of France.

The history of Nebraska is most generally and properly reputed to really begin with the voyage of this heroic La Salle in 1682. Before that, this sequence of events has read more like a romance; from then on, it begins to clothe itself in the practical garments of reality and avowed purposes. Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La

Salle, commissioned to continue the explorations of Marquette and Joliet, "find a port for the King's ships in the Gulf of Mexico, discover the western parts of New France, and find a way to penetrate Mexico," discharged at least a major portion of his assignment. Suffice it to say that on April 8, 1682, La Salle and his lieutenant, Henri Tonti, passed through two of the channels at the mouth of the Mississippi, leading to the Gulf of Mexico, and set up his wooden column, on which had been inscribed the following: "Louis the Great, King of France and of Navarre, King, April 9, 1682." Thus the great basin of the Mississippi came under the scepter of Louis XIV, and standing on that delta of the river, La Salle called into existence the great territory of Louisiana, and Nebraska became a dependency of France. The vast territory of the northwest plains, peopled then only by savage Indian tribes, the abode of buffalo and other wild animals, received its first semblance of organized, political government.

French explorations and expansion continued for almost a century following. In April, 1689, Nicholas Perrot took formal possession of the upper Mississippi Valley, and built a fort and trading post. Antoine Crozat, under a charter given in 1712, combatted for five years with Spanish authorities to make good France's claim to lower Louisiana. He was succeeded by the Mississippi Company, which was organized by John Law as a branch of the Bank of France. In 1720, Law's schemes of colonization failed, and are known to history as the "Mississippi Bubble." Pierre and Paul Mallet, of New Orleans, in 1738, with other Frenchmen, ascended the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and spent the winter near the mouth of the Niobrara.

The English in the meantime had not been idle. In 1620 the British Crown had ignored the Spanish papal grant and the explorations of De Soto, and issued to the Plymouth Company a charter including "all the lands between the fortieth and forty-eighth parallels of north latitude from sea to sea." As the fortieth latitude is the southern boundary of Nebraska, this grant, by implication at least, included the present state of Nebraska. In 1868, the Massachusetts Bay Company received a charter to a strip about one hundred miles wide from "sea to sea," which if it could have been surveyed would have found the northern boundary almost coincident with Nebraska's northern boundary, and its southern boundary would have crossed the Missouri River about twenty miles above the present city of Omaha. Conflicting claims continued, until the French and Indian war materially changed the map of North America. But even after that, many people refused to submit to England's claim to territory lying outside of the boundaries of the territory she then claimed supremacy over, and came on westward and settled within the French and Spanish territory. The capture of these British posts of the Northwest was eventually the cause of the western boundary of the United States being fixed at the Mississippi River by the Treaty of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary war and established the Independence of the United States.

#### NEBRASKA UNDER FRENCH AND SPANISH RULES

The viceroys who ruled over the vast territory of New France in central America, may be said indirectly to be the first governmental administrators over this part of the continent from which Nebraska eventually sprang.

The dates of these administrations were:

Robert, Cavalier de La Salle.....	1682-1688
Marquis de Sanville.....	1689-1700
Bienville .....	1700-1712
Lamothe Cadillar .....	1713-1715
De L'Epinay .....	1716-1717
Bienville .....	1718-1723
Boisbriant .....	1724
Bienville .....	1732-1741
Baron de Kelerec.....	1753-1762
D'Abbadie .....	1763-1766

At this point, France was compelled by force of military necessity to yield to Spain her title to Louisiana. So for almost forty years, the administration of this region passed into Spanish hands, until in 1803, when the territory passed under the flag of the United States. The Spanish governors of that period were:

Antonio de Ulloa.....	1767-1768
Alexander O'Reilly .....	1768-1769
Louis de Unzago.....	1770-1776
Bernardo de Galv�ez.....	1777-1784
Estevar Miro .....	1785-1787
Francisco Luis Hortu, Baron of Carondelet.....	1789-1792
Gayoso de Lemos.....	1793-1798
Sebastian de Casa, Calvo y O'Farrel.....	1789-1799
Jean Manual de Salcedo.....	1800-1803

Despite the fact that France had regained possession of Louisiana on October 1, 1800, Governor Salcedo remained until the United States took formal possession.

#### AMERICAN EXPLORATIONS

Immediately after American acquisition of this vast territory, men's minds began to turn to the Northwest and the great possibilities of this virtually unknown region. It was indeed a tremendous acquisition to the territory of the young republic. It more than doubled the previous land area of the United States. In round numbers it exceeded 883,000 square miles. In addition to the State of Louisiana, out of this territory there have been carved the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North and South Dakota, two-thirds of Minnesota, one-third of Colorado, and three-fourths of Wyoming. When it came to the United States, its entire population did not exceed five thousand souls, nearly one-half of whom were slaves. In 1810, the first federal census showed a population of twenty thousand, of whom one-half were still negro slaves. Now it has a population, in 1920, of around fifteen million.

#### THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

1804. When Jefferson negotiated the purchase of this vast region, it was an almost unknown land except to Indians, traders, hunters and some French priests.



Mention has already been made of some few visitors to this Nebraska region among the French missionaries and explorers. Pierre and August Chouteau, brothers engaged in the fur trade, are known to have passed beyond the forks of the Platte away back in 1762. No doubt other traders, whose visit did not reach the recorded pages of history, likewise temporarily sojourned in this Nebraska area prior to 1804. But that date marks the real beginning of opening this part of the western country up to eastern attention.

The Lewis and Clark expedition left St. Louis on the 14th of May, 1804, and spent two whole years exploring the great purchase. This party, consisting of nine young men from Kentucky, fourteen soldiers of the United States army who volunteered their services, two French watermen, an interpreter and hunter, and a black servant belonging to Captain Clark, and several other members set forth. They came in sight of the present Nebraska on the afternoon of July 11, 1804, and camped opposite the mouth of the big Nemaha.

This party recorded 556 miles of river front for Nebraska in 1804, and their journals furnish the first detailed report upon this region, and served materially in familiarizing the East with this vast region and its unlimited resources, and paved the way for commercial ventures that followed soon thereafter.

Lack of space will forbid going into detail concerning the brave work accomplished by Lieut. William Clark and Capt. Meriwether Lewis, and their immediate successors.

1805. This year brought the first known settlement upon Nebraska soil. Manuel Lisa, a wealthy Spaniard, with a party in search of trading grounds, reached the lands north of the Platte. The beauty of the spot caused him to exclaim "Bellevue," which name was given to the spot. A trading post was established at Bellevue, and we have now reached the point of first settlements.

1806. In this year, Gen. James Wilkinson, then commander-in-chief of the United States army and also governor of the territory of Louisiana, sent forth the expedition of Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike, which resulted in the discovery of Pike's Peak, in Colorado. It has been somewhat a subject of controversy whether this party, in its travel along a route somewhat south of the Platte, really crossed north into Nebraska or stayed in northern Kansas. But it is generally thought that Lieutenant Pike in September, 1806, visited a Pawnee village in the Republican valley.

#### THE ASTORIAN EXPEDITION

1810. The American Fur Company, that monster monopoly under the control of John Jacob Astor, took the first real steps to exploit this northwestern country for commercial purposes. In 1810, Astor organized the Pacific Fur Corporation, a partnership including himself, Wilson Price Hunt, Robert Stuart and others for the purpose of colonization and trade at the mouth of the Columbia River. The Astorian Expedition started out in September, 1810, and founded Astoria at the head of the Columbia River in the spring of the following year.

1811. Hunt's party of Astorians passed up the Nebraska "river coast" early in 1811.

1812. On the 28th of June, 1812, Robert Stuart started from Astoria with five of Hunt's original party for a return overland trip. In southeastern Idaho

they were joined by four men, whom Hunt had left there the October preceding. After a journey of terrible hardships they established winter quarters on the North Platte River, not far east of the place where it issues from the mountains. Driven out of their first stopping place by hostile Indians, they came over three hundred miles eastward along the Platte River, and in December, 1812, established winter camp in what is now the Scotts Bluff country.

1813. This party came down the Platte River in spring of 1813. It is chronicled that they came down this river to "Great Island," which is probably the first official mention of the future Grand Island. At least they proceeded to a point forty-five miles from the mouth of the Platte, and there on April 16, 1813, embarked in a large canoe they secured from the Indians.

#### LONG'S EXPEDITION

1819. The passage of Maj. Stephen H. Long and a party of twenty men from the Missouri River up the Platte to its head waters is the next event of importance in this period of Nebraska's history. The most interesting feature of Major Long's visit to Nebraska is, perhaps, his account of the hopelessness of central Nebraska for future development.

In regard to the Platte Valley, he recorded:

"In regard to this extensive section of country, I do not hesitate in giving the opinion that it is almost wholly unfit for cultivation and of course uninhabitable by a people depending upon agriculture for their subsistence."

In his final estimate, Major Long summed up his ideas of the utility of this central Nebraska territory, as follows:—

"Although tracts of fertile land considerably extensive are occasionally to be met with, yet the scarcity of wood and water, almost uniformly prevalent, will prove an insurmountable obstacle in the way of settling the country. This objection rests not only against the section immediately under consideration, but applies with equal propriety to a much larger portion of the country.

"This region, however, viewed as a frontier, may prove of infinite importance to the United States, inasmuch as it is calculated to serve as a barrier to prevent too great an extension of our population westward, and secure us against the machinations or incursions of an enemy that might otherwise be disposed to annoy us in that part of our frontier."

In a somewhat similar view, another narrator of the same expedition, Doctor James, paid about as correct a tribute to Nebraska:

"We have little apprehension of giving too unfavorable an account of this portion of the country. Though the soil is in some places fertile, the want of timber, of navigable streams, and of water for the necessities of life, render it an unfit residence for any but a nomad population. The traveler who shall at any time have traversed its desolate sands will, we think, join us in the wish that this region may forever remain the unmolested haunt of the native hunter, the bison, and the jackal."

If Major Long and Doctor James could only see Nebraska in 1919-1920, don't you suppose, dear reader, they would at least request the privilege of "another guess"?

## TRAIL BLAZERS

1820-1850. In the thirty years following Major Long's trip through Nebraska, the tide of exploration kept on the rise. Space does not permit of going into detail into these various expeditions, but there are a few of these courageous prospects whose memory deserves the tribute of at least a passing mention.

Thomas Nuttall and John Bradbury spent a part of 1808 in the Nebraska territory botanizing.

Manuel Lisa was not only the founder of Old Nebraska, but his life in this territory was romantic. He led in the explorations of this territory, established trading posts, and opened trading relations with the Indians. He somewhat emulated the example of some Indians in having more than one wife. Every year from 1807 to 1819, inclusive, with perhaps one exception, he made trips into the Northwest. While he had a white wife in St. Louis he married an Omaha Indian girl, telling her people he had another wife down the river. This Indian wife, Mitain, was the mother of his daughter, Rosalie, and son Raymond. After the death of his wife in St. Louis, he married in 1818, Mary Hempstead Keeney, who survived him many years and was familiarly known as "Aunt Manuel." She was the first white woman to come into Nebraska, with the possible exception of Madam Lajoie in 1770. Lisa died in 1820, but "Aunt Manuel" lived nearly fifty years afterwards.

Milton Sublette in the spring of 1830 traveled over nearly the same trail Robert Stuart used in 1813.

Capt. Benjamin Louis Eulalia Bonneville took a party of about one hundred men with twenty-four horse wagons over the Oregon trail in 1832. He took the first wagon train over that part of the trail known as the cut-off between Independence, Kansas, and Grand Island, Nebraska.

Peter A. Sarpy became agent for the American Fur Company at Bellevue, and for about thirty years was the leading spirit of that region. He first came to Nebraska about 1823 as a clerk for this same company. He was intimately associated with the Indians of his period, and was accorded the title "White Chief" by the Omahas. He married according to Indian custom, Ni-co-mi (Voice of the Waters), a woman of the Iowa Indians, to whom he was greatly attached.

John C. Fremont, the "Pathfinder," was detailed in 1842 to "explore and report upon the country between the frontiers of Missouri and the south pass of the Rocky Mountains and on the line of the Kansas and great Platte rivers." He followed the Oregon trail to the mountains, and left behind him a very descriptive and valuable report of the Nebraska country at that time.

Col. Stephen W. Kearny made an expedition through the "Indian country" in 1845. He became an important figure in Nebraska's early history, and in his honor, with the spelling of the name slightly changed, has been named a county, Kearney, and one of the leading cities of the state, Kearney, as well as the historic forts, first near Nebraska City, and second, on the Platte, between present Kearney City and Lowell, Nebraska.

Father Peter J. De Smet was a Belgian, who came as missionary to the Indians of the Platte and upper Missouri in 1838. He was the first Catholic missionary in this country, and here he worked for thirty years. He died in 1873, and was buried in St. Louis.

George Catlin was the first painter of Nebraska scenery and Nebraska Indians. He made his first voyage into this region in 1832. He painted pictures of Blackbird Hill, of the junction of the Platte and Missouri rivers, of prairie fires, buffalo hunting, Indian weapons, games, customs and portraits of prominent Indians, and since in those days there were no camera or moving-picture machines, Catlin's oil-paintings made Nebraska's first picture-gallery.

Prince Maximilian, of Germany, made a trip up the Missouri River in 1833, on the second voyage of the steamer *Yellowstone*. In his publication of a three volume work on his American travels, the Nebraska of that day received practically its first introduction to élite Europe.

#### GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES IN NEBRASKA TERRITORY

1803. Taking up the governmental administration of this region, at the point when the Spanish Governor relinquished it to the United States in 1803. On April 30th of that year, Napoleon Bonaparte, acting for France, ceded to the United States this 1,182,752 acres of land, in the most important real estate transaction in American history, for \$15,000,000, or about 4 cents an acre. The American "Stars and Stripes" were raised in New Orleans, and the purchase became formally American soil.

1804. In this year, and less than sixty days after the first council was held on Nebraska soil, between representatives of the United States and Indians, at Fort Calhoun, Nebraska became part of the territory of Indiana. It so remained from October 1, 1804, until July 4, 1805.

1805. On March 3, 1805, Congress changed the district of Louisiana to the Territory of Louisiana, and it remained a portion of that territory, with the capital at St. Louis, until in June, 1812.

1812. At this time, the territory of Louisiana became the Territory of Missouri.

1819. A bill was passed providing statehood for Missouri, and the territory of Arkansas was created out of the balance of the territory of Missouri.

1820. After Missouri reached formal statehood the great western territory was thrown into the "Indian Country." Woeful neglect of this region followed, until in 1834, the jurisdiction of the United States District Court of Missouri was extended over it, portions of it were annexed to Michigan and Arkansas territories. The slavery controversies, increased in bitterness by the controversies following the admission of Missouri, and the California problem, continued to interfere with development of governmental functions in this far-away region of the western part of the Louisiana purchase.

Finally in the '40s and '50s, came the struggle to establish the territories of Kansas and Nebraska, outlined in another chapter of this work, upon the Territorial Government of Nebraska.

#### THE MORMONS

During the half century between the days of the military expedition of Lewis and Clark, and the arrival of Manuel Lisa in 1805, and the actual organization of Nebraska into a territorial government, circumstances conspired to send thousands of white men into, but mostly through, Nebraska. First, the chain of explorers

and adventurers whose effect upon and participation in Nebraska's early history has already been detailed. Second, the soldiers who were sent in for various purposes by the Government. Third, the trappers and hunters, and the traders who came in. Fourth, the missionaries. Fifth, the emigrants who passed through the state, and lastly, the earlier settlers who stayed and made their homes in the unbroken wilderness.

Those who passed through the state, or stayed but a short time, comprised mainly the emigrants going farther west; the Mormons and the gold seekers. These last two divisions of visitors or short-time residents will now be taken up briefly.

First, in point of numbers and time, among these various migratory bands, came the Mormons. This religious sect had been driven from its home at Nauvoo, Illinois, and was now, after much buffeting around, massing on the banks of the Missouri, preparatory to crossing the "Great Desert" to the Promised Land beyond the reach of law. They had crossed Iowa by various routes, squatting for a time here and there, and finally massing, in 1845 and 1846, about six miles north of Omaha, at what is now known as Florence, but was then termed by the Mormons as "Winter Quarters." Here it is estimated by students that about fifteen thousand people congregated. The devastation wrought upon their wild lands by such an army of non-producers naturally aroused the wrath of the Indians, to whom those lands then really belonged. They felt that the Mormons were cutting too much timber. When this complaint began to bring about an exit of the Mormons, many took refuge on the east side of the river, in what is now Pottawattamie County, near Council Bluffs, Iowa. Soon an expedition of eighty wagons was sent out in search of a permanent home for the Latter Day Saints, and that action resulted in the selection of the Salt Lake Valley in Utah. But at what a cost! The trail from Winter Quarters to Salt Lake City was indelibly marked out for later comers. Cast away garments, broken and burned vehicles, bleaching bones of cattle and horses fallen by the wayside, and graves of weary pilgrims scattered along the route of a thousand miles told the cost.

Many a disheartened wanderer shrank from facing these hardships and preferred to settle along the route of progress in the fertile valleys of Nebraska. In this way numerous small Mormon settlements sprang up along the Platte and its forks. Among these, some of the most interesting, were the Genoa settlement in Nance County, and the Shelton settlement, at old Wood River, clustered around the county line between Hall and Buffalo counties. At the Genoa settlement a large tract of land was enclosed and divided among a hundred or so families, comprising the original settlers, and they supposed foundations had been laid for solid prosperity. But, unfortunately for them, this land was part of the tract set aside for the Pawnee Indians, by the treaty of 1857. So they could not obtain title to these lands, and by reason of this fact, and the harassment of the Sioux and Pawnee, they had to move on.

The first Mormons had settled near Salt Lake City about 1847. The emigration continued from then for more than ten years. The fact that so many finally reached their destination was perhaps due to their careful organization when traveling in parties. Each man carried a rifle or musket and such discipline was maintained on the march that oftentimes the Indians passed up a squad of Mormons and attacked a much larger body of emigrants. The route blazed by the Mormons from Keokuk, Iowa, to the Missouri River gained the name of the "Mormon Trail," and Omaha became a favorite crossing point. For a decade or so, the trade with these excur-

sionists formed a profitable part of the Omaha business interests. They stayed but a few years in the Wood River Valley between Grand Island and Fort Kearney, and they too passed westward.

#### THE GOLD HUNTERS

Next after the Mormons came the flood of emigrants to California, in search of the most seductive, most powerful, metal known to man. The fever of 1849, sweeping over the country, brought a veritable flood of emigration through the Platte Valley and played a material part in permanently blazing the numerous famous "trails" or "highways" through Nebraska. This event had other effects upon the state. "The moving host left here and there a permanent impress on the land." In many instances, the land so charmed the eye, and created so abiding an impression on the mind of many a beholder, that, wearied with the unequal contest of the camp, they abandoned the pick and spade for the surer implements of husbandry. Almost every Nebraska county can number among its earliest pioneers those adventurous spirits who chased the lure of the gold about so long, and then turned to the plow and herd for slower but surer competence and gain. Some stopped off; others went on farther and returned; and many traversed the entire weary trail, and then disheartened retraced their steps this far. Another effect of this emigration was the establishment of a ferry between what is now Omaha and Council Bluffs, by William D. Brown, in 1851 or 1852. In 1853, he laid claim to the site of Omaha. The western travel, which had at first been crossing via "Winter Quarters," as Florence was then called, began to divert rapidly to "Lone Tree" as the site of Omaha was then called.

#### "LIFE ON THE PLAINS"

A beautiful word-picture from the pen of Prof. Samuel Aughey, forty years ago, will prove a fitting climax to this brief review of pre-territorial days of Nebraska.

"Life on the plains! What memories are awakened within the breast of many a resident of Nebraska at the 'sight and sound of those words.' When the golden spike was driven which bound together the iron links in the great national highway, the knell of that wild period in the history of the wild west was struck." The whistle of the first locomotive in its fierce rush across the hitherto trackless expanse ended forever that scene in the drama of progress, which was alike comedy and tragedy. 'I crossed the plains' are words, when spoken by the bronzed and hardy pioneer, which signify more than men of later generation can conceive of. The toiling caravan of emigrants to the El Dorado of the Pacific slope; the venturesome cavalcade of daring huntsmen: the solitary group of mountaineers—a class peculiar to the "Rockies"—have passed beyond the view, and all that now remain of them are scattered traces of forgotten graves, a few survivors of those scenes, busied with other tasks, and vague traditions of the times, which horrify or charm, as deeds of murder, robbery or love perchance to give the coloring to the tale.

"Nebraska was the highway to the West when lumbering wagons furnished the only means of transport, as now, when steam and palace cars augment the speed and comfort of the journey. Imagine—if you can—and you, survivor of the olden time, conjure up a vision of modern methods, as in fancy you live once more those

days of hardship. You lift your head from the damp earth, and by the flickering light of waning camp fire, see the mighty engine dashing by, with train of sleeping coaches, freighted with slumbering voyagers. And, as you gather about the morning fire, with scanty meal, behold the men who look disgusted at their morning bill of fare within the dining coach, and sigh because their journey is a wearying one. They will reach their destinations within the week, while you can count the time by months since you stood looking eastward, as night shut down upon you and blotted out the last rude traces of the 'States'! And still long months of deprivation must ensue before you gain the end of that slow march.

"Let us give place in this history to mention of those events which were, if not direct, at least subsidiary, agencies in the original settlement of Nebraska, and which demonstrated the fact that the Valley of the Platte was the only route of travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific within the limits of the more temperate latitudes."

We must not run amiss and devote our entire time in a work that is chronological and analytical of the evolution of the wonderful State of Nebraska from the wild prairie, abode of the Indian and his companions, the wild animals of the wilderness, to its present stages of development, without devoting at least a small space to a recital of the hardships and struggles, characteristic of those endured by the many thousands of pioneers, emigrants and first settlers, who each individually played their part in this drama. It is not possible to pause here and compile the roster for each county, of its early settlers, as we have stopped to pay tribute to a score or so early explorers and adventurers who led bands of people into or across the state. But a few hundred more words will also allow to embrace in our narrative a characteristic account of the journeys across these plains, endured by the gold seekers and early settlers alike. This is also from the pen of Nebraska's notable early historian Prof. Samuel Aughey.

"In remote times—remote for the West—the beginning of the 'West' was at the Mississippi. Western Illinois and Wisconsin and Eastern Iowa were accessible by water by the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The region beyond was known only to the courageous few who had braved the perils of a wilderness inhabited by hostile tribes. But, in 1850, when the fever for gold had spread throughout the East, the limits of civilization had extended so far that supplies of horses, mules, cattle, wagons, coffee, flour, bacon, sugar and the indispensables of a trip across the plains were obtainable at points on the Missouri River, in the State of Missouri. Parties endeavored to reach that stream early in the spring, that they might take advantage of the growth of vegetation as food for their teams. While some caravans followed the Arkansas (in the present state of Kansas), many more chose to come up the Missouri, and thence travel westward along the rich Valley of the Platte. Thus was first opened up to observant pioneers the beauties of this region. Hundreds of improvident but eager men set out so late in the season as to encounter the rigor of the winter in the mountains, and many perished miserably from exposure and starvation. Others started early enough to safely pass the Rocky Mountains, only to meet their fate in the inhospitable fastnesses of the Sierra Nevada, where snow frequently piles to the depths of thirty and forty feet in localities. Among the very early trials were the dangers incident to crossing a country inhabited by fierce Indians. If the truth could be known, probably every mile from the Missouri to the Pacific would demand at least one headstone to mark a victim's grave. The stages

of life, from birth, to the closing of the drama, were here exemplified. Many a poor mother hushed her new-born babe amid the rough scenes of a camp, while she herself was suffering from lack of those comforts so essential to maternity. Along the trackless plain many a maiden awoke to the revelation of love, and many a troth was plighted.

At the time referred to, the whole region, from the Missouri to the Pacific, was vaguely known as 'the plains,' though it embraced almost every variety of country. First, the emigrant crossed the rich, rolling prairies of Nebraska. The soil grew thinner and thinner until it merged into dreary sand deserts. Upon these he found myriads of prairie dogs, sometimes living in towns twenty miles square herds of graceful antelopes bounded over the hills, and huge, ungainly buffaloes, which numbered millions then, blackened parts of the landscape. A day's journey was from ten to twenty miles. When the company halted for the night, they turned out their animals to graze, with such precautions as served to prevent their escape; lighted a fire on the prairies of buffalo chips, and supped upon pork, hot bread or 'flap-jacks' and washed the frugal repast down with the inevitable tin cup of coffee. Their trusty guns were kept within easy reach, and the whitened skull of a buffalo, perhaps killed by some emigrant long before in wanton sport, served as a seat. At night, the travelers slept soundly, with the blue of heaven for a canopy. The wagons were covered with stout canvas, and afforded protection to the few women and children during the later years of excitement. All became inured to the conditions of outdoor life. When large streams were reached, the heavy wagons were floated or hauled, and where it was convenient to do so, rude bridges were constructed over smaller streams. Every source of ingenuity was developed. If a wheel gave way, and the mechanical productiveness of the party could not replace it, a cottonwood log, with one end dragging on the ground, was made to serve instead. If a pole broke, another was extemporized from the nearest timber. If an ox died, some luckless cow was yoked in his place. Sometimes one family, or one party of half a dozen men, journeyed alone, and sometimes there were a hundred or more wagons in a single 'train' with their white covers enveloped in an increasing cloud of dust. During the seasons when emigration was very heavy, caravans could, from an eminence, be seen stretching out for miles and miles, and at night every pleasant camping-ground was a populous village. The journey was not without its enjoyments, though one's philosophy was sorely tried at times. There were often long delays for hunting lost cattle, waiting for swollen streams to subside, or in climbing the mountains. Storms and mishaps frequently taxed the patience of all, and sickness came to feeble frame and hardy men alike. The first of a long line of trains often climbed steep hills, instead of going the longer and easier way through ravines, and the followers along the new roads were forced to desert the beaten track, and risk untried courses, or labor on in their wake. It was not uncommon to see from ten to thirty yoke of oxen hitched to a single wagon, working slowly up the mountain. The summit reached at last, the wagon would be emptied, and, with a huge log trailing behind as a brake, the teams would descend to repeat their experience in ascending with other loads. The wild, majestic scenery along the way may have been a partial compensation to some for the hardships they endured; but it is reasonable to believe that few would have refused to forego those delights if thereby they might have gained easier transit. The tragedies of those days were numerous. The very nature of the journey, and the chances of sudden wealth, combined with the



freedom of the manner of the living, gathered many a desperate character in the civil army. The baser passions were too often allowed full scope, and hence it must be recorded that many a villain found his end at the hands of outraged companions. The travelers were a law unto themselves, and greed or lust were summarily avenged."

## THE OVERLAND TRAILS

In our present state of prosperity and happiness, we must not be prone to forget the aspect that nature wore in those primitive solitudes to the wandering view of the first inhabitants of our state. We can well pause a bit, to go into a little more detailed examination of the pathways and methods of early travel and transportation of our state. The mighty wave of travel which has just been described in the immediately preceding pages naturally traversed a few beaten paths, and it is an examination of those "beaten paths" we will now undertake.

There is as yet but scanty knowledge of Indian or prehistoric routes of travel through Nebraska. From the journals of the Lewis and Clark expedition, Pike's expedition, Fremont's expedition and Thwaite's admirable compilation of early explorations in this vicinity, we find the accounts of the state of travel and the condition of the territory then. The chroniclers of the '40s intimate that there were then no well defined trails between the locations of the different tribes of the Indians, but that each tribe had its own trails between the locations of the several bands of its own tribe.

But whatever the story of the Indian trails may be, as they related to the earliest history of Nebraska, we know that a number of notable routes sprang up across the state, which became the main arteries of commerce to the Northwest, preceding the arrival of the transcontinental railroad.

## HAVE YOU AN EYE

Have you an eye, for the trails, the trails,  
The old mark and the new?  
What scurried here, what loitered there,  
In the dust and in the dew?

Have you an eye for the beaten track,  
The old hoof and the young?  
Come name me the drivers of yesterday,  
Sing me the songs they sung.

O was it a schooner last went by,  
And where will it cross the stream?  
Where will it halt in the early dusk,  
And where will the camp-fire gleam?

They used to take the shortest cut  
The cattle trails had made;  
Get down the hill by the easy slope  
To the water and the shade.

But it's barbed wire fence, and section line,  
And kill-horse travel now;  
Scoot you down the canyon bank—  
The old road's under plough.

Have you an eye for the laden wheel,  
 The worn tire or the new?  
 Or the sign of the prairie pony's hoof  
 That was never trimmed for shoe?

O little by-path and big highway,  
 Alas, your lives are done,  
 The freighter's track, a weed-grown ditch,  
 Points to the setting sun.

The marks are faint and rain will fall  
 The lore is hard to learn,  
 O hear, what ghosts would follow the road  
 If the old years might return.

The most famous of these great transcontinental highways was known to the traders, ranchmen, and overland stage drivers, as the "Military Road," but more commonly and properly known as

#### THE OREGON TRAIL

A fairly accurate itinerary of this trail as it traversed the State of Nebraska can be taken from the notes of Fremont and travelers of his period, and indicate it passed as follows:

"From the point at Independence, Missouri, where the trail starts northwest, for a distance of 41 miles, it is identical with the Santa Fe Trail; to the Kansas River, 81 miles; to the Big Blue River, 242 miles; to the Little Blue, 296 miles; Platte River, 316 miles; lower ford of South Platte River, 433 miles; upper ford of South Platte River, 493 miles; Chimney Rock, 571 miles; Scotts Bluff, 616 miles. Adding the distance from the northwest boundary of Nebraska to Fort Vancouver, the terminus, yields a total of 2,020 miles. The trail crossed the present Nebraska southern boundary line at or very near the point of the intersection of the 97th meridian, about four miles west of the southeast corner of Jefferson County. It left the Little Blue at a bend beyond this point, but reached it again just beyond Hebron. It left the stream finally at a point near Leroy, and reached the Platte River about twenty miles below the western or upper end of Grand Island. Proceeding thence along the south bank of Platte River, it crossed the south fork about sixty miles from the junction and touched the north fork at Ash Hollow, twenty miles beyond the south fork crossing.

As it is the desire of the compiler of this historical review of Nebraska to preserve somewhere within its pages something of the many contributions to Nebraska historical records and lore, prepared by Hon. A. E. Sheldon, who has devoted many years to the preservation of Nebraska historical facts, it is believed that his brief but comprehensive recital of the "Overland Trails," in his "History and Stories of Nebraska," will appropriately serve this purpose. At the same time it is short enough to fit into our work here, yet cover the proportionate space we can devote to this particular subject.

Each of the old overland trails which crosses Nebraska from the Missouri River to the mountains had a story. It is a story written deep in the lives of men and women, and in the westward march of the American people. The story of these overland trails was also written in broad deep furrows across our prairies. Along

these trails journeyed thousands of men, women and children with ox teams, carts, wheelbarrows, and on foot, to settle the great country beyond. Over them marched the soldiers who built forts to protect the settlers. Then the long freighting trains loaded with food, tools and clothing passed that way. So there came to be great beaten thoroughfares one or two hundred feet wide, deeply cut in the earth by the wheels of wagons and the feet of pilgrims.

The Oregon Trail was the first and most famous of these in Nebraska. It started from the Missouri River at Independence, Missouri, ran across the northeast corner of Kansas and entered Nebraska near the point where Gage and Jefferson counties meet on the Nebraska-Kansas line. It followed the course of the Little Blue River across Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Clay and Adams counties, then across the divide to the Platte, near the head of Grand Island in Hall County (missing Hall County by about two miles), then along the south side of the Platte through Kearney, Phelps, Gosper and Dawson to a point in Kieth County about seven miles east of Big Springs, where it crossed the South Platte and continued up the south side of the North Platte through Kieth, Garden, Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties, where it passed out of Nebraska into Wyoming.

The beginnings of the Oregon Trail in Nebraska were made in 1813 by a little band of returning Astorians as they, leading their one poor horse, tramped their weary way down the Platte Valley to the Otoe village, where they took canoes for their journey down the river. These first Oregon trailers left no track deep enough to be followed. They simply made known the way. After them fur traders on horseback and afoot followed nearly the same route. On April 10, 1830, Milton Sublette with ten wagons and one milch cow left St. Louis and arrived at the Wind River Mountains on July 16th. They returned to St. Louis the same summer, bringing back ten wagons loaded with furs and the faithful cow which furnished milk all the way. They were the first wagon wheels on the Oregon Trail across Nebraska. The track they made from the mouth of the Kansas River up the valley of the Little Blue and up the south side of the Platte and North Platte was followed by others, and thus became the historic trail. Their famous cow, and the old horse, which seventeen years before carried the burdens for the Astorians are entitled to a high place among the pioneers of the West.

In 1832, Captain Bonneville, whose story is told by Washington Irving, followed over Sublette's trail from the Missouri River to the mountains. In the same year Nathaniel J. Wyeth following the same trail, pushed through the South Pass in the mountains and on to Oregon, thus making an open road from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. With slight changes, this road remained the Oregon Trail through the years of overland travel. Every spring in May, the long emigrant wagon trains left the Missouri River and arrived on the Pacific Coast in November. It was a wonderful trip. Every day the train moved fifteen or twenty miles. Every night it camped. Every day there were new travelers. Children were born on the way. There were weddings and funerals. It was a great traveling city, moving 2,000 miles from the river to the ocean.

There are five periods in the story of the Oregon Trail. The first was the period of finding the way and breaking the trail and extends from the return of the Astorians in 1813 to the Wyeth wagons in 1832. The second period was that of the early Oregon migration and extends from 1832 to the discovery of gold in California in 1849. The third period was that of the rush for gold and extends

from 1849 to 1860. During this period the Oregon Trail became the greatest traveled highway in the world, wider and more beaten than a city street and hundreds of thousands passed over it. The fourth period is that of the decline of the Oregon Trail and extends from 1860 to 1869. The fifth period, from 1869 to the present day, is witnessing its gradual effacement.

The best brief description of the Oregon Trail is that of Father De Smet, who knew it well and tells of its appearance when first seen by him and his party of Indians from the Upper Missouri in 1851:

"Our Indian companions, who had never seen but the narrow hunting paths by which they transport themselves and their lodges, were filled with admiration on seeing this noble highway, which is as smooth as a barn floor swept by the winds, and not a blade of grass can shoot up on it on account of the continual passing. They conceived a high idea of the countless white nations. They fancied that all had gone over that road and that an immense void must exist in the land of the rising sun. They styled the route the 'Great Medicine Road of the Whites.'"

In another place Father De Smet tells of the Great Government wagon trains he met on the Oregon Trail in 1858:

"Each train consisted of twenty-six wagons, each wagon drawn by six yoke of oxen. The trains made a line fifty miles long. Each wagon is marked with a name as in the case of ships, and these names served to furnish amusement to the passers-by. Such names as The Constitution, The President, The Great Republic, The King of Bavaria, Louis Napoleon, Dan O'Connell, Old Kentuck, were daubed in great letters on each side of the carriage. On the plains the wagoner assumes the style of Captain, being placed in command of his wagon and twelve oxen. The master wagoner is admiral of this little fleet of 26 captains and 312 oxen. At a distance the white awnings of the wagons have the effect of a fleet of vessels with all canvas spread."

#### OTHER TRAILS

"The second important trail across Nebraska is the one which started from the banks of the Missouri River near Bellevue and Florence, followed up the north side of the Platte and North Platte to Fort Laramie, where it joined the older Oregon Trail. This was the route across Nebraska of the returning Astorians in 1813 and some of the early fur traders. The Mormons made this a wagon road in 1847 when their great company which wintered at Florence and Bellevue took this way to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. It was often called the Mormon Trail. Some of the immigrants to Oregon and California went over this route and hence it is sometimes called the Oregon Trail or California Trail. There was less travel on this trail than on the one south of the Platte River because there was more sand here. (This is in recent years more commonly called the 'Overland Trail.') This north side trail ran through the counties of Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Merrick, Hall, Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Garden, Morrill and Scotts Bluff." (It will be noticed that this very closely parallels the route eventually selected for the transcontinental, Union Pacific, or Overland, railway.)

"The third celebrated trail across Nebraska was from the Missouri River to Denver, and was called the Denver Trail. It had many branches between the Missouri River and Fort Kearney. Near this point they united and followed up the south bank of the Platte to Denver. The route from Omaha to Denver was

up the north bank of the Platte to Shim's Ferry in Butler County, where it crossed to the south side and continued up the river to Fort Kearney.

"There was also a road from Nebraska City up the south bank of the Platte, which was joined by the Omaha road after it crossed the river. It was called the Fort Kearney and Nebraska City road. A new and more direct road was laid out in 1860 from Nebraska City west through the counties of Otoe, Lancaster, Seward, York, Hall and Kearney. This was the best road to Denver. It was called the Nebraska City cut-off. It became very popular and during the years from 1862 to 1869 was traveled by thousands of immigrants and freighters. Over the Denver Trail went the Pike's Peak immigrants and the supplies and machinery for opening the mines in Colorado."

#### THE DECLINE OF THESE TRAILS

Upon the completion of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1869, the passage and decline of these trails started at a rapid rate. Short stretches from one town or settlement to another became regular roads, but remained no longer integral parts of a great through highway of travel. At many places through Nebraska, traces of the old wagon wheels or tracks remain visible.

#### THE STAGE COACHES

Before we pass entirely from this period, it would only be fitting to give short consideration to the conveyances and methods of travel used in the period we have just been discussing. Overland stages had been the main means of travel before the advent of the railroad coach. The great trails just recounted, across the State of Nebraska served as highways for the Overland stage from the Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean. The most commonly used vehicle for this work was the light Concord coach, so-called because they were first built at Concord, New Hampshire. They accommodated usually nine passengers inside and often one or two sat outside with the driver.

With the Overland Stage developed the Overland Mail. The first contract for carrying this mail was let in 1850 to Samuel H. Woodton, of Independence, Missouri. This was a monthly service on a route with terminals 1,200 miles apart, St. Louis, and Salt Lake City, with the service later extended to Sacramento, California. Through Nebraska, this service substantially followed the Oregon Trail. The hard winter of 1856-7 blocked this route for several months. The California mail coach was then placed on a southern route through Arizona, but with the Civil war it was brought north again and in 1861, the first daily overland mail began running from the Missouri River to California. This mail at first started from St. Joseph. After a few months it ran from Atchison, joining the Oregon Trail a few miles south of the Nebraska state line and following it as far as the crossing of the South Platte near Julesburg, where it diverted making a new road, called the Central Route, through the mountains to Salt Lake City. This was said to be the greatest stage line in the world. In 1859, the mail contract had been transferred to Russell, Majors & Waddell, who afterwards became the most extensive freighters in Nebraska from the Missouri River. The stages taking the Overland route usually followed the south side of the Platte River,

while the Union Pacific Railroad was later built on the north side of that river. These daily stage lines ran from 1861 to 1866 both ways, except for a short period during the Indian depredations of 1864.

#### THE PONY EXPRESS SYSTEM

The pony express system began April 3, 1860, and continued for eighteen months until the completion of the telegraph line to San Francisco. This system was originated by William H. Russell, of Leavenworth, Kansas, and was the forerunner of the great fast mail (postal) system of the United States. The pony express was a man on horseback carrying a mail bag and riding as fast as the horse could run. As the horse and man, covered with dust and foam, dashed into a station another man on horseback snatched the bag and raced to the next station. So the bag of letters and dispatches rushed day and night across the plains and mountains between the Missouri River and the ocean. It is reputed that the quickest time ever made by the pony express was in March, 1861, when President Lincoln's inaugural address was carried from St. Joseph to Sacramento, 1,980 miles, in seven days and seventeen hours. The charges were originally five dollars for each letter of one-half ounce or less; but afterwards this was reduced to two dollars and a half, this being in addition to the regular United States postage.

#### THEN AND NOW

But in 1920, we can hardly realize the full force of the importance of these old roads. We now see our succession of thriving cities, towns and villages of Nebraska, connected by rail, by telegraph, in some places by paved roads and dotted all over the state, with the new, leveled, graded, smooth state highway.

*Then* the road led across the naked prairie from the Missouri River—wide, hard, and bare, except in real dry weather, with its terribly wrathful ruts. It followed no general course, unless in a general northwesterly direction. It crossed bridgeless streams, traversed through localities of great beauty, where the traveler might unwittingly scare away great numbers of antelope, buffalo, elk or deer, and even the worse, coyotes, wolves and animals of prey. Such a thoroughfare was traveled by as heterogeneous a mass of people as could be found anywhere—merchants, capitalists, freighters, prospectors, hunters, trappers, traders, soldiers, adventurers, pleasure seekers, home seekers, emigrants, Indians, Mormons, gamblers, outlaws, tourists and even representatives of foreign nations. Here and there some enterprising rancher supplied the freighters, soldiers, stage-drivers, emigrants and travelers with food and drink—especially drink.

*Now* the roads lead along well defined courses, generally well graded, often marked from mile to mile with plain directions as to course and distance. Not only is the road definitely defined but along its side traverse the poles with wires for telegraph, telephone and electric power transmission. Streams are well bridged, though once in a while one still stumbles upon the old rickety wooden bridge, not yet replaced with steel or concrete bridge. Where there formerly was only endless prairie, now to the vista appears magnificent farm mansions, and wonderful barns, even splendid garages, and machinery and stock palaces, innumerable sheds and smaller buildings, and many a farm with an automobile or two, a tractor, a power

plant, and much power driven machinery around. Instead of travel by foot, by horseback and stage coach, the most usual vehicles to dodge now are fast automobiles, chugging motorcycles, and occasionally a farm wagon or buggy of the type of a decade or two ago.

Out of it all is coming the permanently constructed highway. What the old national highway was to the plains, what the welcome transcontinental Union Pacific became, even now the great granddaughter of the old trail, the permanently constructed highway, bids fair to become—and very soon at that—unless the aerial highway for high-powered aeroplanes, and passenger balloons, overpowers it.

“There are highways born, the old roads die—  
Can you read what once they said,  
From the way worn ditch and the sunflower clump,  
And the needs of folk long dead.”

## CHAPTER IV

### THE GRADUAL SETTLEMENT OF THE STATE

COUNTIES IN THE ORDER OF SETTLEMENT—SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES  
—1810—1819—1826—1844—1846—1853—OMAHA — BROWNVILLE — NEMAJIA  
CITY—PLATTSMOUTH—NEBRASKA CITY—1854—1855—1856—COLUMBUS—FRE-  
MONT—BEATRICE—GRAND ISLAND—1858—1860—1863—1866—NORTH PLATTE—  
1867—1868—1869—SCHUYLER—WAHOO—BLAIR—FAIRBURY—NORFOLK — 1870  
—1871-2—KEARNEY—1873—1877-1880—1881-2—1883.

“Hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be,  
The first low wash of waves where soon  
Shall roll a human sea.”

We have paid brief tribute in preceding chapters to the original inhabitants of Nebraska, the Indians, and to the intrepid, aggressive and determined explorers who found this fair state and opened it to the vista of the white settlers. We expect yet, in a chapter to follow, to pay brief tribute to the valiant pioneers who opened up the settlement of each county in the state. But to gain a connected and comprehensive conception of the gradual progression of the settlement of our state both in time and geographical scope, we may well pause and record a roster of the counties and communities in the order in which their settlement was perfected, before we attempt a separate consideration of each, in the usual course of alphabetical order.

#### COUNTIES IN ORDER OF SETTLEMENT

(No attempt has been made where settlements are attributed to several counties in the same year, to carry the event to months or days—but they are listed perhaps somewhat indiscriminately in that year. In most cases, a more definite date than merely giving the year is given in the separate consideration of the county, to follow in another chapter.)

#### *Temporary Settlements*

1810 and 1823. Present Sarpy County. (Post at Bellevue.)  
1819 to 1827. Present Washington County. (Fort Atkinson.)

#### *Permanent Settlements*

Prior to 1844. Sarpy. 1848. Kearney County, at new Fort  
1844. Otoe, at Fort Kearney, later  
Nebraska City, and Douglas, Kearney.  
at Florence. 1853. Cass County, Plattsmouth.



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|--|---|
| 1854. Nemaha County. Brownville<br>and Nemaha City.<br>Dakota County.<br>Richardson County.<br>Pawnee County.<br>Jefferson County. | Saunders County.<br>Butler County.<br>Nance County.<br>Hall County.<br>Clay County.<br>Cedar County.  |
| 1855. Washington County, permanent<br>settlement.<br>Burt County.  | 1858. Buffalo County.<br>Saline County.<br>Nuckolls County.   |
| 1856. Dodge County.<br>Colfax County.<br>Platte County.<br>Cunning County.<br>Knox County.<br>Johnson County.                      | 1859. Dixon County.<br>Kearney County, for permanent<br>settlement, outside of old Fort<br>Kearney.<br>Merrick County.<br>Seward County.<br>Lincoln County. |
| 1857. Gage County, permanent settle-<br>ment.<br>Laneaster County.   | 1861. Dawson County.  |

It will be noted at this point that settlement of new territory was virtually halted during the Civil war period and the period of worst Indian depredations, centering from 1862-1864. It will also be noted that the names of counties used in this list are the present names of the respective counties. Those which were formed with other names will be so differentiated when the order of organization of counties is discussed.

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|---|---|
| 1865. Stanton County.<br>Madison County.<br>York County.  | 1870. Adams County.<br>Webster County.<br>Franklin County.<br>Harlan County.<br>Furnas County.  |
| 1866. Fillmore County.<br>Pierce County.  | 1871. Boone County.<br>Greeley County.<br>Howard County.<br>Red Willow County.  |
| 1867. Hamilton County.<br>Polk County.<br>Keith County, embracing later<br>Perkins County.<br>Cheyenne County, along the<br>line of the new Union Pacific,<br>so embracing later Kimball<br>County.<br>Deuel County.<br>And in a way, Banner County<br>and Garden County which set-<br>tled soon after that time, for<br>cattle ranch purposes. | 1872. Sherman County.<br>Valley County.<br>Holt County, and from it Boyd<br>County.<br>Phelps County.<br>Gosper County.<br>Frontier County.<br>Hitchcock County, permanently. |
| 1868. Antelope County.  | 1873. Garfield County, and a little<br>later into Wheeler County.<br>Chase County and probably<br>into Dundy County, and about<br>1880 into Hayes County.                     |
| 1869. Thayer County.<br>Wayne County.<br>Hitchcock County, this proving<br>somewhat temporary.  | 1873-4. Custer County.  |

1877. Sioux County.

In 1882, Cheyenne County included the present counties of Kimball, Deuel and Banner, which were partially settled; and the following counties, which received their permanent settlements at or shortly after that time.

Scotts Bluff County.

Morrill County.

Garden County.

In 1882, Sioux County covered an area now covered by sixteen counties. Of these, Holt and Sioux alone have been recorded. Between 1882 and 1886, settlements crept into territory now, Cherry County.

Brown County.

Rock County.

Keya Paha County.

Between 1886 and 1890, settlements crept into territory since formed into,

Blaine County.

Thomas County.

Grant County.

Hooker County.

Dawes County.

Sheridan County.

Logan County.

McPherson County and

Arthur County.

(Thurston County formed from Omaha Indian reservation territory.)

#### SETTLEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITIES

The foregoing roster of counties in the order of their settlement is mainly of statistical value. The real criterion of the time and rotation of settlement through the various parts of the state is best measured by a survey of the rotation in which the different towns, cities and small communities were projected, platted and incorporated.

On the 30th of May, 1854, when President Pierce affixed his signature to the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the Territory of Nebraska was very sparsely settled. The white population of the territory at that time was a little less than 3,000 souls, scattered among the little settlements at Bellevue, Omaha, Brownville and other places along the Missouri River bottoms.

While Lewis and Clark in 1804 and Manuel Lisa in 1805 had made their explorations along the east edge of the state it was not until 1810, that a permanent settlement was attempted in Nebraska.

1810. In that year, the American Fur Company, organized and controlled by the genius of John Jacob Astor, established a trading post at Bellevue. A French-Canadian by name of Francis Deroin was placed in charge. Deroin was succeeded by a fellow countryman, Joseph Robidoux, familiarly known as "Old Joe" and who was later the father of St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1816, his successor, John Carbanne came and stayed until 1824, when Col. Peter A. Sarpy took charge. Colonel Sarpy, for whom the county in which this post was situated was eventually named, was a splendid specimen of the hardy race of pioneers who laid the foundation stones of the wonderful structure of Nebraska. At the time of the formation of the territory, Sarpy was described as being fifty-five years of age, rather below medium in height, with black hair, dark complexion, well-knit and compact feature and a heavy beard that scorned the razor's edge for many years. His manner was commanding, his address fluent, and in the presence of the opposite sex, he was polished and fluent.

1819. The Government located a military post within the present limits of

Washington County. The post was then called Fort Atkinson, but afterwards the name was changed to Fort Calhoun. It stood on the spot where Lewis and Clark held their famous council with the chiefs of the Otoe and Missouri Indians. The fort was abandoned as a military post in 1827.

1826. Next to Peter Sarpy, John Boulware is believed to be the first white man to attempt a settlement in the yet unorganized Territory of Nebraska. He established himself at Fort Calhoun, in 1826, the year before the fort there was abandoned. A trading post near there had been moved to Bellevue in 1823. Boulware remained at Fort Calhoun for many years, but in 1846 he established, or rather was placed in charge of a Government ferry at Fort Kearney, at the present site of Nebraska City.

1844. Next to Bellevue, the attempting of any settlement is attributed to the sojourn of the Mormons in 1844, at the location of what is now the town of Florence, recently annexed to Omaha. Driven out of Illinois, buffeted across the plains of Iowa, the Mormons believed they could rest in peace on the banks of the Missouri and established their colony about six miles north of Omaha, at Florence. The land within and surrounding their settlement was cultivated and soon fully 10,000 disciples of Joseph Smith were gathered near here. But they were not destined to remain any great factor in Nebraska's development, for as soon as it was determined that Salt Lake City was to become the permanent capital of their empire, within which their teachings and practices would not be interrupted, they migrated to their modern Zion. So in 1851 the Mormons at Florence abandoned their prairie homes and journeyed westward.

1846. The next move in the unorganized territory was probably the establishment in 1846 of a small post called Fort Kearney, on the site of the present Nebraska City, and a ferry across the river at that point. The American Fur Company also in this year or perhaps in 1847, established a trading post at this point. This continued until 1854. The fort was used as a military post by the Government until 1848, when it was abandoned and the garrison moved to new Fort Kearney, in the present Kearney County, and below the present city of Kearney on the Platte River. It might be remarked that the original spelling of the valiant soldier for whom these various places were named was "Kearny," but it has gradually by usage been changed to this word with the "e" in the last syllable.

1853. This brings us to the year before the organization of the territory, with only Bellevue and perhaps Fort Calhoun and Nebraska City, then Fort Kearney, as what might be called permanent settlements. In the year 1853 several events took place forerunning the wave of settlement that began in 1854. A trading post was established in the southern part of Nemaha County, and the town of St. Derooin laid out. Robert Hawke, a merchant from the Nebraska City or Fort Kearney settlement, built a house and opened a store there. This was before the extinguishment of the Indian title and can hardly be regarded as more than an Indian post, rather than a new town. Council Bluffs had become a city of some two thousand by this time, and in June, 1853, a ferry was established by William D. Brown between Council Bluffs and the Nebraska side. The company was composed of William D. Brown, Joseph Street, Jesse Williams and Enos Lowe. Though these gentlemen frequently visited the Nebraska side, and attempted to "squat" claims, as the Indian title was not extinguished until the next year, permanent settlements on site of Omaha cannot be said to have commenced until

1854. Alfred D. Jones, a surveyor, who had shortly theretofore located the town of Winterset, Iowa, came over about this time and spotted the claim which he intended to and did file upon as soon as the opportunity offered. In the spring of 1853, Samuel Martin, having first obtained the necessary permission from the Government to establish a trading post in the Platte Country, crossed the river and erected a two-story building at the point on the south branch of the Platte River, near its mouth, where city of Plattsmouth was later located. Except for the temporary settlement of Stephen Story in 1844, in what is now Richardson County, where he stayed until 1850, this practically completes the roster of pre-territorial settlements in Nebraska. Two other trappers and hunters, Charles Martin and F. X. Dupuis, had also made temporary settlements in Richardson County in that period.

1854. This year not only marks the arrival of Governor Burt and the beginning of fixed territorial government, but the influx of settlers who established on a permanent basis most of the early communities.

*Omaha.* Early in the spring when it became a certainty that the territory would be organized and thrown open to settlement a number of men crossed from Council Bluffs and took up claims in and around the present Omaha. Among those whose names have been preserved are:—A. D. Jones, J. E. Johnson, Robert B. Whitted, William Clancy, Jeffrey Brothers, J. C. Reeves, James Hickey, Benjamin Leonard, A. R. Gilmore, C. H. Downs, W. P. Snowden, O. B. Seldon, J. W. Paddock, William Gray, John Withnell, George L. Miller, A. J. Poppleton, Loran Miller, J. G. Mageath, A. B. Moore and O. D. Richardson. The first building was completed by A. D. Jones, on May 28, 1854, just two days before President Pierce signed the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. A townsite was selected, surveyed and platted, and named "Omaha." The history of Omaha alone would fill more than a volume, so space in this work will not permit of going very much into detail in the development of this, or any other community in this state, except the particular communities selected to be treated completely in the latter part hereof.

*Brownville.* In this year, Richard Brown came to Nemaha County, and located the spot where Brownville was developed. This town not only served for a time as county seat of Nemaha County but became in its halcyon days of the steamboat traffic, a really important town in early Nebraska. But with the arrival of railroads and decline of steamboat traffic, it deteriorated until it is now but a village of some five hundred inhabitants, after sixty-six years of existence. Ex-Governor Furnas was an early resident of this community. A great deal of interesting early history of this community could be given here if space permitted.

*Nemaha City.* Another community was established in Nemaha County this same year, at Nemaha City, four and a half miles below Brownville. Albert L. Coutt and Doctor Wyatt are believed to have been the first settlers. A ferry was chartered the next year, and later, in 1863, a toll bridge built, which was later superseded by a permanent county bridge. After some sixty-five years of existence, this community remains as a village of about four hundred inhabitants, with memories of an important part played in the early development of the state.

*Plattsmouth and Nebraska City* were formally platted, surveyed and laid out in this year, and took their place among the permanently established communities of the state. A few years later, both were bitter, earnest contenders for the state capital, but neither won that prize. Both developed into important railroad cen-

ters, and Nebraska City into an industrial center of some repute. In 1920, both rank as important cities in the second group in population.

*Cincinnati* was a village laid out in Pawnee County this year, the first real manifestation of permanent settlement in that county.

*Archer* and *Salem* were laid out in Richardson County this year; the former, incorporated the next year was designated as the first county seat of that county, and some years later, Salem won that prize for a few years' possession, until it lost it to Falls City, a town three years its junior.

Going north of Omaha, numerous settlements were projected and laid out in 1854. Among these were *Fort Calhoun*, on a permanent basis; *Fontanelle*, *De Soto* and *Cuming City*, all in Washington County.

1855. Though a claim had been staked the previous year, this year saw *Tekamah* in Burt County laid out.

From this point on, this survey does not, by any means, purport to record the settlement of every town and community in the state, but only selects the more prominent towns, for the purpose of showing how much farther and in what directions the new settlements have progressed each year.

1856. This year found Decatur in Burt County established. To the north, appear Dakota City and Niobrara (Knox County) and Ponca, the latter established by Doctor Stough in 1856. Spreading to the west, appear two towns destined to become important cities of the state, *Columbus* and *Fremont*. Dodge County also produced North Bend in this year.

*Columbus*. This town was founded by the Columbus Town Company, which had sent Fred Gottschalk, Jacob Lewis and George Rausch out from Omaha as advance agents in April to locate a site. On April 27, 1856, Isaac Albertson and E. W. Toneray located on Shell Creek, and attempted to found a town named "Buchanan" in the part of Platte County that became Colfax County later. Columbus was outlined and started on May 29, 1856. As remarked before, Albertson and Toneray, with General Estabrook and Col. Lorán Miller attempted this year to start Buchanan, some four miles east of present Schuyler. As has been remarked, though in the realm of national politics Buchanan, as a presidential candidate, defeated Fremont in 1856, as a town, Fremont most certainly permanently eclipsed Buchanan, for today, the Fremont established in 1856 by contract with Pinney, Barnard & Co., is one of the important cities of Nebraska and Buchanan is as forgotten as the President for whom it was named.

Columbus was carried on in its upbuilding by a consolidation of the Pawnee City Company, the Columbus Town Company and a bridge company. It was incorporated as a town in 1865, and became a city of the first class in 1873, and in 1920 has reached a population of approximately six thousand.

*Fremont* is an important railroad and industrial center. In 1860 it became the seat of justice for Dodge County, and was incorporated as a city of second class in 1871. It is the outlet or market place for products of the rich valleys of the Platte for a long stretch and of the Elkhorn. Its first church, the Congregational, was organized in 1857, and it had a school in 1858. The 1920 census shows it to be a city of almost ten thousand population.

1857. This year saw Tecumseh, located in Johnson County, another move in the trend of settlement away from the river counties. Falls City and Rulo were laid out in Richardson County. Two more communities were established in this

year that were destined to take front rank among the cities of Nebraska, Beatrice and Grand Island.

*Beatrice*, the county seat of Gage County, is pleasantly situated on the Blue River, about fifty miles south of Lincoln. It was founded by a colony of emigrants in 1857 and named in honor of the daughter of Judge Kinney, a member. It was made the county seat upon the organization of the county and still holds that honor. Since the arrival of the first railroad, the Omaha & Southwestern, in 1871, numerous other lines have built in and it has become an important railroad center as well as industrial city, made especially famous by the Dempster Mills. The first church organized was the Methodist in 1857 or 1858, and a school was built by 1862. Blue Springs was another town started in Gage County this same year.

*Grand Island*. On July 4, 1857, a colony of thirty-five hardy pioneers arrived in what is now Hall County. Sent out by A. H. Barrows of a Davenport, Iowa, banking firm, upon well defined terms of financing and duties of cultivation and production, this courageous band passed by the infant settlements at Omaha, Fremont and Columbus and ventured out into the fathomless prairies of Central Nebraska, where there were then no settlements of white men, except clustered at Fort Kearney, to the southwest of where they stopped. They came to the "Great Island" referred to by Fremont, in the Platte River, and some two miles and a half below the present city of Grand Island, located a settlement. They built the O. K. Store and a few other establishments, but little in the way of a town was accomplished until the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866 and establishment of a division point upon the site of the present Grand Island, when the name was transferred to the new site, the community mainly moved over and the present city began. It has grown until it has reached a safe place in the 1920 census as Third City of Nebraska, showing a population of around fourteen thousand. Not only possessing the largest shops of the Union Pacific in Nebraska, outside of Omaha, this community has achieved a considerable industrial reputation as being the site of the first beet sugar factory in America; the second largest horse and mule market in the United States and a recent local survey showed some three hundred articles manufactured in this city. A land office was located here in 1869, the town incorporated in 1873, and schools and churches were started right after the establishment in 1866.

1858. In the southeastern part of the state, St. Deroin was resurveyed, this also being the year in which the founder, Deroin, was killed by a man named Bedlow in a quarrel. Bedlow was acquitted upon trial. Falls City was incorporated, Table Rock, which had been surveyed in 1855, was incorporated and its rival in Pawnee County, Pawnee City, was projected, but the latter was not really organized until 1871. To the northeast, St. Helena sprang up in Cedar County and Oakland to the south of there, in Burt County.

But the main marks of progress in this year was the extension of settlement to the west along the Platte. A station was established at Lone Tree station in Merrick County by the Western Stage Co. This was the beginning of the present town of Central City, though that town began its real existence about 1875. In Hall County, Mormon settlers located in the west end of the county, at a point that started the settlement of Wood River some ten years later. In eastern Buffalo County, the community of Wood River Center was settled by the Mormons, and a

town started that later developed into the present Shelton, a change of name being necessary after the town of Wood River started a few miles to the east in Hall County.

1860. A settlement was made at Genoa, which later became the location of an Indian school and a town of some repute. The location of a ferry across the Loup at this point hastened the location of a community in this vicinity. Franklin, which later became Jackson, was located near Dakota City.

In the next few years but little was accomplished in the direction of new settlements.

1863 saw the establishment of Fort McPherson in Lincoln County, and Elder J. M. Young settled at Lancaster, which sprang up and retained that name until the establishment of Lincoln, the new state capital, some four years later. In 1864, a postoffice was established at Milford, in Seward County, and in 1866 a mill was started there, on the Blue River. After the Civil war was over and the Indian scares of 1862 to 1865 had subsided, new settlements began to appear.

1866. The extension of the Union Pacific built up the Lone Tree station in Merrick County; moved the settlement of Grand Island over to the present site; and brought about the establishment of Kearney Station, which later became Buda, it being some five years later before Kearney Junction, the present city of Kearney reached the postoffice stage. The most important step forward of this year was probably the location and establishment of *North Platte*. This place is located approximately three hundred miles west of Omaha. Upon its establishment in 1866, a postoffice was located, and a newspaper, *The Pioneer on Wheels*, started. In 1867 it became the county seat of Lincoln County, and the same year the Union Pacific began the erection of machine shops there. For some thirty years it enjoyed a steady growth and in 1910 showed a population of 4,792. But in the past decade, with the rapid and wonderful development of the North Platte Valley in the western end of the state, it has become the industrial center of that vast new empire of irrigation, sugar beets and general production and forged ahead to a population of past ten thousand, and is now the fifth city in the state.

1867. As this year saw the completion of the Union Pacific railroad to practically the western border of the state, another division point west of North Platte, and still in Nebraska, became necessary, so the town of Sidney was started, at the location of a military garrison of that vicinity. This town became the point where travelers left the Overland highways to go north to the Black Hills, and when gold was discovered in the Black Hills in 1876, became a very important, as well as notorious, place. It was here that the wild life of the frontier probably appeared more markedly and more true to "dime novel" and "western film" portrayals than any other place in Nebraska.

In this same year, 1867, the location was selected for the new state capitol, and the City of Lincoln given birth. By coincidence, in the same year, a small town was laid out in Washington County, named Kennard, in honor of one of the three commissioners who chose the site of Lincoln, Thomas P. Kennard. By further coincidence, in the recent weeks of the summer of 1920, occurred the deaths of Mr. Kennard, one of the founders of Lincoln, and Dr. George L. Miller, one of the original builders of Omaha, both hovering around the ripe age of ninety years.

1868 marked no organized advance of settlement. In this year, Ulysses in

Butler County, Wood River in Hall County and North Auburn in Nemaha County, received a start.

1869. This year saw some advance in addition of permanent communities to the state's roster. Hebron, county seat of Thayer County, was platted, Weeping Water, Cass County, which had been settled since 1855 took form, Arlington was laid out in Washington County. Papillion, county seat of Sarpy County, had its first house built, and five other towns, four of which were destined to become county seats and two of which are among the dozen most important towns of the state, were started in this year.

*Schuyler*, in Colfax County. The railroad station and section house had been built shortly before, but in 1869 L. C. Smith and brother opened the first store, and the town was platted on April 6, 1869, by H. M. Hoxie and Webster Snyder, officials of the Union Pacific Railroad. It has grown to be a good town of population in the neighborhood of two thousand five hundred, and especially noted for having one of the largest flour mills in the West, the Wells-Abbott-Nieman mills, manufacturers of Puritan and other brands of flour, sold all over the United States.

*Wahoo* grew from settlements made in this year by J. M. and J. R. Lee, and in the following year a company composed of these two men and Wm. B. Lee, H. Dorsey, E. H. Barnard, J. J. Hawthorn and Mr. Miner surveyed the town and subsequently became proprietors of the village. This town was destined later to capture the county seat honors of Saunders County from Ashland, and also to become an important trading center of the territory between Lincoln and Fremont.

*Blair*, the permanent seat of justice of Washington County, was located in this year. It is situated twenty-five miles north of Omaha, on a beautiful plateau about two and a half miles west of the Missouri River, and became the crossing of the C., St. P., M. & O. lines to Sioux City, and the main lines of the Northwestern system from Iowa to Fremont and on to the Black Hills. This plateau had been settled in 1855 by three brothers, Jacob, Alexander and T. M. Carter. The town was founded in 1869 and became a city of second class in 1872. It has developed into an important industrial center, with a canning factory, horse collar factory, Danish Publishing House, seat of Dana College, Danish Educational Institution for the nation, and an important trading center despite its close proximity to Omaha and Fremont.

*Fairbury*, the permanent county seat of Jefferson County, was laid out in 1869 by Messrs. McDowell and Mattingly, though its real period of growth commenced in 1872 with the arrival of the St. Joe & Denver, now the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad. Its name, Fairbury, Mr. McDowell chose from that of his former residence, Fairbury, Ill. Close to the Otoe reservation and in a commanding position as the junction of the St. Joe and Grand Island and Rock Island lines over an extensive, fertile territory, it has built up to a status as one of the best smaller cities in the state.

*Norfolk*, in Madison County, was laid out in this year, by Colonel Matthewson, who completed the Norfolk mills in 1870. He also built the first store in this town in 1869, and the first frame house, which stood at present corner of Main and First streets. This pioneer founder died in 1880. But the town he started kept on growing until it has reached a place among the ten largest towns in the state, and from its strategic location is destined to make very rapid growth in the future. An important railroad division point on the Northwestern system and junction,



point of different lines, it is also becoming one of the very important industrial and wholesale centers of the state.

1870. This year saw a rapid development in the territory between Lincoln and Grand Island. *Seward*, developing from a settlement made two years before, was incorporated. York grew out of the development from a pre-emption claim taken in 1869 for the South Platte Land Co., and was surveyed and platted in October, 1869, with the first store built in the following year. Crete was projected in this year by J. C. Bickle, and a rival town, Blue River City, started, but vanquished later by Crete. Orville, which became the first county seat of Hamilton County, started in this year. Dorchester also sprang up in Saline County; Sterling, down in Thayer County, and Inland, to the southwest, in the west edge of Clay County, was projected. A town was started three miles from the present site of Osceola, which became Osceola in 1871. Further west, the settlements in the Republican Valley opened in this year, with Red Cloud and Guide Rock projected in this year. In the older territory, town of Pierce started.

1871-1872. These two years witnessed a startling array of new settlements in the state, and a survey of the geographical trend is almost as enlightening as the roster of the new towns. In the well established eastern and northeastern part of the state, towns added to the list in these two years were: Madison, which became the county seat of Madison County; Syracuse and Unadilla in Otoe County; Wisner was platted, in Cuming County, and Lyons started; Scribner and Hooper in Dodge County appeared; Homer in Dakota County and Creighton in Knox County started in 1872; as did Oakdale in Antelope County.

Moving westward, in these years numerous settlements were projected in Lancaster County, at Bennett and Waverly; in its neighboring counties to the west, Saline produced Wilber, its eventual county seat; DeWitt and Friend in 1872. The latter started when the railroad came through in 1871, but got its real impetus in 1873, and Thayer County bristled out with Alexandria in 1871, and Davenport, Carleton and Belvidere in 1872. Clay County began its town growth in earnest, with Harvard and Sutton in 1871 and Fairfield in 1872, and Edgar was surveyed in 1872. Fillmore produced Geneva, Fairmont and Exeter in 1871 as well as Grafton, which indulged in a most picturesque railroad and trade war with Sutton, when the railroad attempted to pass up Sutton and locate the depot and shipping facilities at Grafton. Unlike many of these scraps, in this instance both towns survived and became good trading centers.

Adams County showed unusual development. A small settlement in vicinity of *Hastings*, headed by the filing of Walter Micklen upon the future townsite started the venture. The Hastings Townsite Company organized by Walter Micklen, W. L. Smith, T. E. Farrell, W. B. Slosson, Samuel Slosson and J. D. Carl, laid Micklen's land out into town lots and projected the future city. Samuel Alexander came from Lincoln in 1872 and erected the first store, before the arrival of the railroad, and when the goods had to be hauled from Inland, a town then the terminus of the Burlington, six miles east of Hastings. The postoffice was established that fall, with Alexander as postmaster. The new town had a rapid growth, in 1877 became the county seat. In April, 1874, it was incorporated. It has grown and developed, as a wonderful railroad center, with seven railroad lines radiating in every direction, and such commercial, industrial and manufacturing attainments that it holds a place as the fourth largest city in the state according to

the 1920 census. In 1871-2, Adams County also produced Juniata and Kenesaw. Continuing west to Kearney County, Lowell was started in 1872. To the northwest, along the Union Pacific line and Platte River territory, *Kearney Junction* now city of *Kearney* and Plum Creek, which was later changed to name of Lexington, were started in 1871.

*Kearney* was started from Kearney Junction postoffice in 1871; the town surveyed in 1872, and both the Union Pacific and Burlington railroads were then completed to this new town. By the spring of 1873 it had some twenty buildings and was incorporated as a town in April, 1874. Its first church was the Methodist Episcopal, organized as early as 1871 by Presiding Elder A. G. White and Rev. A. Collins, at the residence of the latter. Its first school was taught in 1872 by Miss Fanny Nevins. This city has grown in commercial and industrial importance until it has approximately seven thousand residents, and is one of the most beautiful cities in the state. It is a great center of schools and public institutions.

Plum Creek, or Lexington, the county seat of Dawson County, has developed into a very important town of its class. Lowell, mentioned a short space back, played a very important part in early days of central Nebraska, but has fallen back to about one hundred inhabitants. Gibbon in Buffalo county started in 1872, and has become a very enterprising small town, with very nearly a thousand population. The settlements in Franklin, Harlan and Furnas counties, first made here and there in 1870, were also concentrating into the development of towns in this period of 1871-2. Bloomington, in Franklin County; Alma, in Harlan County, and Beaver City, in Furnas County, all destined to win the county seatship in their respective counties blossomed forth in 1872. In Franklin County, Bloomington was not alone, but had as early rivals, started at the same time, Franklin City, which became Waterloo, and eventually Franklin displaced it; Riverton and Naponee. Arapahoe was started, and well rivaled Beaver City, in Furnas County. Orleans, Melrose and Republican City started to contest with Alma, in Harlan County.

In the central part of the state and looking farther north, in 1872, *Aurora* was laid out in Hamilton County, destined to take the county seat away from Orville, and become the metropolis of its vicinity, and a town of some three thousand inhabitants. At this time, the great, fertile Loup Valley, north of Aurora and Grand Island began to open up. Following the first settlements in 1871, the town of *St. Paul* was founded by the Paul brothers in 1872, and another town, Dannebrog also started in Howard County that year, and to the north, *North Loup*, in Valley County, was projected. This growth carried the settlements well into the center of the state, along the Republican, Platte and Loup valleys.

Also in this period, in the older parts of the state, among other towns started in 1871-2 were Stronsburg, in Polk County; Plainview, in Pierce County; *Albion*, the permanent county seat of Boone County, and St. Edward, in the same county; Stanton, in the county that bears the same name; and Palmyra in Otoe County.

1873 saw a few towns here and there started, in localities which gradually extended the settled area. Neligh, in Antelope County started at this time. Ord was located in this year and laid out in 1874 by Haskell Brothers and Babcock. This town, the metropolis of Valley County and the junction of the Union Pacific and Burlington branches into the Loup Valley has become an important trading center. Ord and North Loup bear the reputation of being the shipping points for

the second greatest popcorn shipping community in the United States, and an annual popcorn festival is held in recent years at North Loup. Nelson, eventually the county seat of Nuckolls County, was laid out in 1873, some two years before its rival Superior, which became the larger town in the county and an important railroad center. David City, the county seat of Butler, was laid out then, and incorporated in 1874; Loup City, the metropolis and county seat of Sherman County, began building up in 1873. In Dawson County, two more towns started, Cozad, which was at one time called "Hundredth Meridian" due to its location near that line, and Overton, which is in the eastern part of the county.

1874-77. Scotia, in Greeley County, and located between St. Paul and North Loup, but only four miles south of the latter, started in 1874. It was the first town and first county seat of Greeley County. O'Neill started in 1875, and Atkinson, in 1876 and another little town in Holt County, Paddock, later Troy, started about this time. Keya Paha was settled in 1877, thus indicating that before 1880 the settlements were reaching up the Northwestern Railroad Elkhorn Valley line pretty rapidly.

In Kearney County, Minden started in 1876 and Newark in 1877. In Greeley, a settlement was made at O'Connor in 1877. Utica, in Seward County started about this time.

1877-1880. In 1878, Blue Hill and Cowles started in Webster County; 1879 saw the foundation of Cedar Rapids, in Boone County; Clay Center, in Clay County; Oxford, in Furnas County; and Bradshaw in York County.

1881-2. Bancroft started in Burt County; Fullerton, in Nance County; Pilger, in Stanton County; Chester and Hubbell in Thayer County, and out at the very southwest corner of the state, Collinsville, later called Benkleman began.

The more important towns projected in 1882, were Wakefield, in Dixon County; Wayne, county seat of that county; Wymore, in Gage County, and Spalding, in eastern Greeley County, and *McCook*, future county seat of Red Willow, an important division point on the Burlington and trading center of some importance in the Republican Valley in recent years.

This survey reaching to 1883, brings us to a point where towns had been started in almost every county in the state, outside of the vast, rather unorganized region then embraced in Cheyenne and Sioux counties, and later distributed into twenty-three counties instead of two. It was about this time that the towns of Custer County were started. Westerville, in 1886, being the first important town; Broken Bow, having been first located in 1882 and well eclipsed its first rival in the latter years. As the Burlington Railroad built its line toward Billings in 1884, 1885, 1886 and 1887, towns sprang up along that line; Ravenna, in Buffalo County; Ansley, Mason, Merna, Anselmo in Custer County; Dunning, in Blaine, Thedford, Seneca in Thomas County; Mullen, in Hooker County; Hyannis, Whitman and Ashby in Grant County, and on toward Alliance, in Box Butte County, and many stations which have remained smaller than those mentioned.

Thus, Nebraska has developed into a state with only two large cities, of over 50,000 population, Omaha and Lincoln, a dozen smaller cities ranging from 7,000 to 15,000, and a myriad of towns in the 2,000 to 5,000 class, good trading centers for fertile, prosperous territories, and hundreds of smaller towns, yet carrying on extensive business interests. A truly agricultural state, it is upon these myriads of small towns, and not altogether upon great cities, that Nebraska

bases its wonderful record of achievement in agricultural, educational, religious, social and civic performances, that serve to make it one of the banner states of the Union. With well maintained churches, well endowed schools, well patronized newspapers, active and up-to-date business houses, well supported and clean moving picture theaters, it is through such a myriad of small towns that Nebraska can mould a citizenship that takes a low percentage record of illiteracy, a high percentage record in keen alert citizenship, and a most vigorous forward record in progressive legislation and forward government.

## CHAPTER V

### DEVELOPMENT OF NEBRASKA—BY COUNTIES

ORDER OF ORGANIZATION—EIGHT ORIGINAL COUNTIES—CHANGES BY FIRST LEGISLATURE—ACT OF JANUARY 26, 1856—ORGANIZATION, YEAR BY YEAR—INLAND COUNTIES—THE COUNTIES OF NEBRASKA INDIVIDUALLY—POPULATION OF COUNTIES—SHORT SKETCH OF FIRST SETTLEMENTS, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF EACH COUNTY (ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)—ORIGIN OF NEBRASKA NAMES—COUNTY NAMES.

“Many things impossible in thought  
Have been by need to full perfection brought.”

—*Dryden.*

It is one of the peculiarities of our American governmental scheme that has made this republic what it is—that we bring the Government so close to the people. Each citizen takes a deep interest and pride in the history, achievements and government of our Nation—but things “National” are a long ways off. We take a very close pride in our state, and the general history of the State of Nebraska, as a whole, is interesting. But it needs not words to describe even how much closer is the particular county in which one lives. It is this bringing the government, in smaller units and functions, close to us, that distinguishes the United States from many other nations. It needs no words to describe that feeling of even closer proprietorship and individual pride one feels in the local city hall and courthouse buildings than he does in even a more majestic appearing Federal postoffice building. Perhaps, for one thing, because he doesn't have to divide his ownership, as a citizen, with one hundred millions of others.

So in this volume, many things that might have been included in the treatment of the state governmental functions have been omitted to make way for the following brief, synoptical analysis of the origin, organization and stage of development reached by each individual county in the state.

#### ORDER OF ORGANIZATION

Just as in the subject of their settlement, a short statistical review of the rotation in which the various counties perfected their governmental organization cannot but prove invaluable as well as interesting.

#### EIGHT ORIGINAL COUNTIES

When the Territorial Government assumed the reins of government in 1854, Nebraska was then divided into what have been called, “The Eight Original Counties.” These were clustered along the Missouri River, and starting at the

south end, were:—Richardson; Forney (later changed to name of Nemaha), Pierce (later called Otoe), Cass, Douglas, Washington, Burt, and Dodge, the one of the group that lay back away from the Missouri River.

In 1855, counties of Dakota and Cuming were organized; and in 1856, Pawnee and Johnson were organized. These four were virtually pioneer counties in the territorial government.

#### CHANGES BY FIRST LEGISLATURE

The original division according to eight counties above mentioned, was materially changed by the first legislature. The subdivision of so vast a domain as Nebraska was no slight task. Not only was it necessary to observe the wishes of the petitioners, accede to various requests as to locations, dislike and likes for certain names, conform to natural boundaries and divisions made by rivers, railroads and other natural factors in such determinations, but look to the future of a fast-growing territory. It will be observed in comparing the following table, with that showing the rotation of settlement of the respective counties, appearing in another chapter, or with the short synoptical analysis of each county appearing in the latter part of this chapter, that many counties were provided for, established as to boundaries, and named, by the early legislatures that did not materialize in latter years. Others, remained but a short time under the name first given, or the boundaries first established. Still others, had a portion of their original territory cut off and made into new counties. It is to keep these changes in mind, in a short, concise and comprehensible form, that the following table is intended.

On February 18, 1855, the Legislature re-enacted the boundaries of Burt County; on February 22d, those of Washington; on March 6th, those of Dodge; on March 2d, it had fixed those of Douglas and Otoe; on March 7th, those of Cass, Nemaha and Richardson. Thus the names of Forney and Pierce were dropped; the other six original counties re-established. In addition to Dakota, Cuming, Pawnee and Johnson, heretofore mentioned as having been very shortly organized, twelve other counties were established by this Act. Of these twelve, the following eventually were organized in somewhere approximately the boundaries fixed in this Act:—Loup, which territory was later organized as Platte and Colfax, but the county seat named therein, Pawnee, never materialized. Greene, named for a Missouri senator, whose course in the Civil war displeased Nebraskans and after organization the county's name was changed to Seward; Lancaster, Gage, and Clay, all later organized, upon a basis of twenty-four miles square, and county seats to be named for Lancaster and Gage, but that of Clay to be "Clatonia." After Clay was organized the only effort toward building up a town in its borders was that of projected town of Austin. In 1864, a bill was drawn that attached the north half of Clay County to Lancaster and the south half to Gage, which accounts for these two counties being of the combined length of seventy-two miles. Jackson, apparently to be the western part of present Otoe County, never materialized as a county; neither did McNeale, of which Manitou was to have been the county seat, nor Izard, with Hunton as county seat. The territory embraced in the description of these two counties later became Stanton and Wayne counties. Saline County, York County and Buffalo County, as yet unsettled when this act was passed, later materialized into counties, although Buffalo County possessed vastly different

borders when it finally came into the family of counties; and its proposed county seat of Nebraska Center never materialized; Blackbird County, for many years, for election, judicial and revenue purposes was apportioned between Bart, Cuming and Dakota counties; became the Omaha reservation territory, and eventually, in recent years, became Thurston County. The county seats named for the first twelve counties did not all retain that honor; notably, Fort Calhoun in Washington; Fontanelle in Dodge; Pawnee Village in Pawnee; Catherine in Cuming; Archer in Richardson; Brownville in Nemaha and Blackbird City in Blackbird.

## ACT OF JANUARY 26, 1856

This Act approved the boundaries of nineteen counties; repeating among the counties named in Act of 1855, York, Saline, Izard, Gage, Lancaster, Clay and Greene. This Act added the status of establishment to the following counties which were eventually organized; Jefferson, Fillmore, Polk, Monroe, which eventually became the west part of Platte, Madison, Pierce, Jones, which was originally Jefferson County as now constituted; Butler, Platte, Dixon and Calhoun, which eventually became known as Saunders.

Up until the end of this year, only the twelve counties first named above had been formally organized.

1857. In this year, the Legislature established three counties, naming boundaries for Cedar, L'Eau-qui-Court and Cuming. Cuming was already organized; and in this year the following counties perfected organization:—

L'Eau-qui-Court, which retained that name until 1867, when it was changed to "Emmett" and in 1873 to its present name, Knox. Cedar; Sarpy, which although the first county in the state to be settled, had remained a part of Douglas until this time, notwithstanding that at one time provision had been made to establish it as Omaha County. Gage and Platte were organized in this year.

1858. Legislative act provided for establishment or changes in boundaries of following counties; Nemaha, re-defined; Dixon, re-defined; Calhoun, Merick, later spelled Merrick; Hall, and the three were organized in that year—Dixon, Merrick and Hall.

1859. Lancaster and Kearney counties, organized.

1860. Legislative provisions made for organization of following counties; Wilson, Morton, Shorter, Kearney, really organized the year before, and Dawson. It was six years before Shorter, which was eventually known as Lincoln County, and eleven years before Dawson County organized, and there are no records to show that Wilson or Morton ever organized and exercised any functions as counties. These two counties were to have been out in the North Platte River—Sweet Water River region. In addition to re-defining boundaries of several present counties, provision was made for West and Nuckolls counties. Nuckolls organized some eleven years later, West County, proposed up along the Keya Paha River, never materialized and its establishment was set aside in 1862.

1862. Saline County organized.

1864. Buffalo County was organized. Jefferson County organized. The present Jefferson County was originally Jones County, and when it changed its name retained the name Jefferson in order to retain the county records, and its neighbor,

Thayer County, which was separated from it, and had originally had name Jefferson, hunted a new name.

1865. Seward County was organized. As noted heretofore, it dropped its original name, Greene County, and adopted that of the national secretary of state.

1866. Saunders County, first known as Calhoun, organized as did Lincoln and Stanton counties.

1867. The Legislature in this year provided for the establishment of several counties, of which present Clay and Hamilton were already slightly settled, and Webster, Adams, and Franklin were not settled until some three years later.

1868. Butler and Madison counties organized.

1869. Colfax County organized.

1870. This year witnessed the organization of Pierce and Wayne in the north-east part of state, York, Polk and Hamilton in central part and Cheyenne in far western part.

1871. This year witnessed the organization of twelve counties, eight of which are adjacent to each other, five in the southern tier of the state and three in the next tier to the north, being Fillmore, Clay and Adams in the latter tier; and running east to west on southern tier, being, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin and Harlan. Antelope and Dawson heretofore provided for were organized, and Boone and Howard in the north central part were forerunners of another group organized about this time.

1872. In this year, Greeley, in the Loup Valley, and Frontier, to the west organized.

1873. This year saw the establishment by the Legislature of a number of counties, of which Phelps, Furnas, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Keith, Valley and Sherman then organized. Authorization that was later acted upon was given for the organization of Gosper, which eventually came off from Phelps; Dundy, in the southwest corner of the state; Chase, the next county north of Dundy.

1876-1877. The next manifestation of activity in the formation of counties was that of Holt in 1876, and Custer by Act of 1877, and Hayes was established by Act of 1877, as was Wheeler County. After the discovery of gold in the Black Hills, necessity coupled with the desire of prospective settlers and goldseekers drove the Ogallala and Brule Sioux from their reservations in the part of the state, then called the Unorganized Country, and Sioux County shortly after emerged as a unit of vast territory that later became some sixteen separate counties.

1879. Nance County organized.

1881. Wheeler County was actually organized on April 11th.

1883. This year saw the organization of three counties: Loup, Brown and Cherry.

1884. Keya Paha County was taken off from Brown County. Garfield County was formed from the western end of Wheeler County, and Sioux County was reduced to almost its present proportion when in

1885. Dawes and Sheridan were formed. Logan County down in the sandhills took shape about this time.

1886. Blaine County temporarily organized. The Burlington Railroad line to Wyoming and Montana building through this district, caused the formation of numerous counties through the Burlington Sandhills. Box Butte took form in this year also.



1887. Thomas County was established from the territory between Blaine and Box Butte counties; and a year later, Grant County took form, and in another year, Hooker County, completing the quartette of counties that border to the south on their vast neighbor, Cherry County, and through which the Burlington line runs. In 1887, two changes took place to the south, when McPherson was provided for, and Perkins County was taken off from Keith County.

1888. This year saw the formation of Rock County, between Brown and Holt counties, and from big Cheyenne, four counties were taken by an election of November 6, 1888; being Deuel, Kimball, Banner and Scotts Bluff.

1889. In addition to formation of Hooker County, in this year, the Indian reservation territory of old Blackbird County, on the Missouri River, was formed into Thurston County.

1891. Boyd County was taken off the north end of Holt County.

1908-1910-1913. In the last twelve years, the three youngest counties in Nebraska have been formulated. Morrill County was taken from new Cheyenne County in 1908, and two years later, Garden County was taken from Deuel County, and in 1913, Arthur County, long before provided for, and for years attached to McPherson County, was formed and organized from the western part of McPherson County.

#### INLAND COUNTIES

Railroad construction in Nebraska in the past two decades has been very light, and Nebraska in 1920 still has five inland counties, in whose borders no railroad track traverses, and to which a trip by team, conveyance, automobile, other vehicle or aeroplane is the only means of entrance. These are Keya Paha, Loup, McPherson, Arthur, Banner. Several other counties, with railroad facilities at other towns in the county have inland county seats, without railroad facilities. These are, Hayes County, Hayes Center; Frontier County, Stockville; Logan County, Gandy, over a mile from the railroad, but with a station; Blaine County, Brewster, eighteen miles from Dunning; Wheeler County, where Bartlett is usually reached from either Ericson in that county, or Spalding, in Greeley County; Boyd County, Butte; and Knox County, Center.

While it has been seven years since any new counties have been formed in Nebraska, there is no immediate likelihood of a ninety-fourth county coming very soon. The counties south of Cherry County strongly advocate the secession of a couple tiers of townships on the south from that vast county and their annexation to Grant, Hooker and Thomas, but this, if it came about, would probably form no new counties. Division of Sheridan County is strongly advocated at times, and would be the most likely ninety-fourth county move. Division of the vast county of Custer has withstood defeat in several elections, and with the development of good roads and general use of automobiles never seemed further of accomplishment than it does right now in 1920. County seat changes are desired in many counties by towns which would like to win this prize from its present possessor. But none have been made in very recent years, except in Franklin County in 1920.

#### THE COUNTIES OF NEBRASKA—INDIVIDUALLY

A very long narrative could be woven, and most interestingly at that, concerning each one of the counties of the state. But to do this in one volume would make

altogether too long a work. When this was attempted, and pretty thoroughly at that, some thirty-eight years ago, by the compilers of Andreas' History of Nebraska, 1882, it made a book of over 1,500 pages, and a great deal of that in very fine print. Then there were only sixty-eight counties fully treated and four or five others slightly treated, and forty years elapsed since on each one, would make necessary a set of more than one volume. So in this work, only the county assigned will be treated in full, and a very short synopsis of the facts or origin, organization and development included for each of the other counties.

## POPULATION OF COUNTIES

The quickest and most comprehensive barometer of the growth of the "county" subdivisions of the state, is naturally reflected in the table of populations of the various counties, given here for each ten year period from 1860 to 1920, inclusive.

The 1920 census shows that in Nebraska, in common with many other central states of the Union, and especially those states outside of the manufacturing districts and depending more essentially upon agriculture, many counties show a slight decline since 1910. On the other hand, the towns and cities show a substantially uniform rate of increase. There are fewer farms in 1920 and fewer people living in the rural districts, and it will be noted that most of the counties showing a substantial increase between 1910 and 1920, are those counties with numerous or important towns and cities.

## POPULATION OF NEBRASKA BY COUNTIES

	Population, 1856-1920							
	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1856
The State	1,295,502	1,192,214	1,066,300	1,058,910	452,402	122,993	28,841	.....
Counties								
Adams	22,621	20,900	18,840	24,303	10,235	19	.....	.....
Antelope	15,243	14,003	11,344	10,399	3,953	.....	.....	.....
Arthur	1,412	.....	.....	91	.....	.....	.....	.....
Banner	1,435	1,444	1,114	2,435	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blaine	1,778	1,672	603	1,146	.....	.....	.....	.....
Boone	14,146	13,145	11,689	8,683	4,170	.....	.....	.....
Box Butte	6,407	6,131	5,572	5,494	.....	.....	.....	.....
Boyd	8,243	8,826	7,332	695	.....	.....	.....	.....
Brown	6,749	6,083	3,470	4,359	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buffalo	23,787	21,907	20,254	22,162	7,531	193	114	.....
Burt	12,559	12,726	13,040	11,069	6,937	2,847	388	146
Butler	13,723	15,403	15,703	15,454	9,154	1,290	27	.....
Cass	18,029	19,786	21,330	24,080	16,683	8,751	3,569	1,251
Cedar	16,225	15,191	12,467	7,928	2,899	1,032	246	.....
Chase	4,939	3,613	2,559	4,807	70	.....	.....	.....
Cherry	11,753	10,414	6,541	6,428	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cheyenne	8,405	4,551	5,570	5,693	1,558	190	.....	.....
Clay	14,486	15,729	15,735	16,310	11,294	54	165	.....
Colfax	11,524	11,610	11,211	10,453	6,588	1,424	.....	8
Cuming	13,769	13,782	14,584	12,285	5,569	2,364	67	.....
Custer	26,407	25,668	19,758	21,677	2,211	.....	.....	646
Dakota	7,694	6,564	6,286	5,386	3,213	2,040	819	.....
Dawes	10,160	5,254	6,215	9,722	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dawson	16,004	15,961	12,214	10,129	2,909	103	16	.....
Deuel	3,282	1,786	2,680	2,893	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dixon	11,815	11,477	10,535	8,084	4,177	1,345	247	.....
Dodge	23,197	22,145	22,298	19,260	11,263	4,212	309	313
Douglas	204,524	168,546	140,590	158,008	37,645	19,982	4,328	3,465
Dundy	4,869	4,098	2,434	4,012	37	.....	.....	.....
Fillmore	13,671	14,674	15,087	16,022	10,204	238	.....	.....
Franklin	19,067	10,303	9,455	7,692	5,465	26	.....	.....
Frontier	8,540	8,572	8,781	8,497	934	.....	.....	.....
Furnas	11,657	12,083	12,373	9,840	6,407	.....	.....	.....
Gage	29,721	30,525	30,051	36,344	13,164	3,359	421	.....
Garden	4,572	3,538	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Garfield	3,496	3,417	2,197	1,859	.....	.....	.....	.....
Gosper	4,669	4,933	5,301	4,816	1,673	.....	.....	.....
Grant	1,486	1,097	763	458	.....	.....	.....	.....
Greeley	8,685	8,047	5,691	4,869	1,461	.....	.....	.....
Hall	23,733	20,861	17,206	16,513	8,572	1,057	116	.....

Counties	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870	1860	1856
Hamilton	13,237	13,459	13,330	14,096	8,267	130		
Harlan	9,220	9,570	9,370	8,158	6,986			
Hayes	3,327	3,011	2,708	3,953	119			
Hitchcock	6,045	5,415	4,409	5,799	1,012			
Holt	17,151	15,545	12,224	13,672	3,237			
Hooker	1,378	981	432	426				
Howard	10,739	10,783	10,343	9,459	4,391			
Jefferson	16,146	16,852	15,196	14,859	8,066	2,440		
Johnson	6,940	10,187	11,197	10,333	7,595	5,429		
Kearney	8,583	9,106	9,866	9,061	4,072	58	472	
Keith	5,294	3,692	1,951	2,556	194			
Keya Paha	3,594	3,452	3,076	3,920				
Kimball	4,498	1,942	758	959				
Knox	18,894	18,358	14,343	8,582	3,606	261	152	
Lancaster	85,902	73,703	64,855	76,395	28,090	7,074	153	125
Lincoln	23,420	15,684	11,416	10,441	3,622	17*	117†	
Logan	1,596	1,521	960	1,378				
Loup	1,946	2,188	1,305	1,662				
McPherson	1,692	2,470	517	401				
Madison	22,511	19,101	16,976	13,669	5,589	1,133	with Platte	
Merrick	10,763	10,379	9,255	8,758	5,341	557	109	
Morrill	9,151	4,584						
Nance	8,732	4,826	8,222	5,773	1,212	44		
Nemaha	12,547	13,095	14,952	12,930	10,451	7,593	3,139	1,281
Nuckolls	13,236	13,019	12,414	11,417	4,235	8	22	
Otoe	19,494	19,324	22,288	25,403	15,727	12,345	4,211	1,862
Pawnee	9,578	10,582	11,770	10,340				301
Perkins	3,967	2,570	1,702	4,364				
Phelps	9,900	10,451	10,772	10,772	14,447			
Pierce	10,681	10,122	8,445	4,864	1,202	152		
Platte	19,464	19,006	17,747	15,437	9,511	1,899	782	35
Polk	10,714	10,521	10,542	10,817	6,846	136	19	
Red Willow	11,434	11,056	9,604	8,837	3,044			
Richardson	18,968	17,488	19,614	17,574	15,031	9,780	2,835	532
Rock	3,703	3,627	2,809	3,083				
Saline	15,514	17,866	18,252	20,097	14,491	3,106	39	
Sarpy	9,370	9,274	9,080	6,875	4,481	2,913	1,201	
Saunders	20,589	21,145	22,085	21,577	15,810	4,547		
Scott's Bluff	20,710	8,355	2,552	1,888				
Seward	15,867	15,895	15,690	16,140	11,147	2,953		
Sheridan	9,625	7,328	6,933	8,687				
Sherman	8,877	8,275	6,550	6,399	2,061			
Sioux	4,528	5,299	2,655	2,452	639			
Stanton	7,756	7,542	6,959	4,619	1,813	636		
Thayer	13,976	14,775	14,325	12,738	6,113			
Thomas	1,773	1,191	628	517				
Thurston	9,589	8,704	6,517	3,176	109	31		
Valley	9,823	9,480	7,339	7,092	2,324			
Washington	12,180	12,738	13,086	11,869	8,631	4,452	1,249	751
Wayne	9,725	10,397	9,872	6,169	813	182		
Webster	10,922	12,068	11,619	11,210	7,104	16		
Wheeler	2,531	2,282	1,362	1,683	644			
York	17,146	18,721	18,205	17,279	11,170	604		

\* Boundaries of Lincoln County changed about 1867.  
 † As Shorter County.

ADAMS COUNTY

Adams County lies about one hundred and twenty miles west of the Missouri River, and twenty-four miles from the south line of the state. It is bounded by the counties of Hall on the north, Clay on the east, Webster on the south, and Kearney on the west.

Mortimer N. Kress and Joe Fouts came into the county in 1869. On March 5, 1870, they located claims at a point near where the Little Blue enters Clay County. In 1871 it was declared a county by executive proclamation and the first elections held in that year. In April of 1871, a colony of Englishmen came in and settled near where Hastings is located, and upon Micklen's land Hastings was projected and the townsite laid out, in 1872. In 1871 the county had a voting population of twenty-nine. The line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad built across the county east and west in 1871-2. The St. Joseph & Denver built into the county also in 1872. The area of the county is 565 square miles. The growth of the county as evidenced by its population, has been: Census of 1870, 19; 1880, 10,235; 1885, 18,004; 1890, 24,303; 1900, 18,840; 1910, 20,900, and 1920, 22,621.

The first county seat was Juniata, but after some efforts Hastings secured this

prize in 1877. Besides its metropolis, Hastings, the fourth city in the state, the other towns of the county are, Juniata, which was started in 1871 and is a town of about five hundred inhabitants now; Ayr, which was laid out in 1878; Kenesaw, which was located in 1872, and is now a town of over seven hundred; Hansen, which was laid out in 1879; Pauline, Leroy, Brickton, Roseland, Holstein, and Prosser. As in every county, there were some forty years ago a number of postoffices, at inland points, which by the establishment of rural mail routes and concentration of trade into other towns, have been practically, if not entirely, wiped out or discontinued. Among these in Adams County were Millington, about three miles northeast of Ayr; Ludlow, about eleven miles northeast of Hastings; Hazel Dell, about eight miles south of Juniata; Mayflower, about seven miles south of Kenesaw; Kingston, about five miles east of Ayr; Morseville and Rosedale, in southwest corner of the county. With the prestige of Hastings, the queen city of the state, Adams County has always been a county to be reckoned with in Nebraska.

#### ANTELOPE COUNTY

This county is in the northeastern part of the state, in the fifth tier from the east and second from the northern edge. Its area is 872 square miles. It was settled on April 25, 1868, by "Ponca George" St. Clair, in the St. Clair Valley. The county was established in 1871, and received its name from an incident remembered by Hon. Leander Gerrard, when the year before a party he was with had killed and refreshed themselves upon the meat of some young antelope. The county seat then chosen was the present site of Oakdale. The county seat Neligh was chosen in the late '70s, after the first court house had burned. The county had Indian raids in 1870, but no serious depredations were suffered in this county. The principal early towns of the county were Oakdale, founded in 1872, Neligh, in 1873. The towns now flourishing in this county in 1920, are: Clearwater, started in 1872 as Antelope and name changed in 1880 to Clearwater; Orchard, established 1880; Elgin, a town of about seven hundred in southern part of county; Royal, established in 1880, Brunswick, and inland points, St. Clair, established as a postoffice in 1876 and named for the first settler in the county; Vim; Willowdale, where a postoffice was established in 1874; Jessup, named in honor of ex-Governor Jessup of Iowa, and Glenalpine, settled up in 1879. This county is traversed by the main line of the Northwestern system from Omaha to the Black Hills, and by the Sioux City-O'Neill branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy.

#### ARTHUR COUNTY

This is the youngest county in Nebraska, formally organized in 1913. Prior to the land drawings at North Platte and Broken Bow in 1912, when the major portion of the land in this county was thrown open to homestead settlement, this vicinity was a sparsely settled west end of McPherson County. Big ranches were built up in those days, and a considerable portion of the county is yet devoted to ranching. The county seat town, Arthur, is a small inland village. Other postoffices or trading points in the county are Zella, Melrose, Hillsdale, Cullman, Read and Rice, in the southern portion of the county; Edward, Flora, Collins, Willett, Lena, Carman and Calora, in the northern part. The county is reached by automo-

bile stage or private conveyances from Lewellen, Lemoyne or Keystone in Keith County, or Hyannis or Whitman in Grant County, and to Arthur town is about forty miles drive through sandhills either way.

#### BANNER COUNTY

This county is just north of Kimball, the southwestern county in the Nebraska Panhandle, and borders onto the State of Wyoming, to the west. It has an area of 742 square miles and a population of approximately 1,500 to 2,000. It is an inland county, reached from Union Pacific stations in Kimball County or towns in Scotts Bluff County. Its county seat, Harrisburg, is a small inland town. The early settlements were made in the county in the late '80s. The first invasion of the county by white men was for ranching purposes when it was used by a couple of large ranches before the farming population arrived. It was organized, upon its division from Cheyenne, in 1888. Postoffices or trading centers other than Harrisburg, are Gary, Flowerfield and Epworth, in the southwest part; Heath and Kirk, in southeastern part; Hull, in the northwestern, and Big Horn, in eastern part of county. The highway from Scotts Bluff to Kimball traverses the county north and south and is the main thoroughfare of travel. Banner County is a great wheat producing area.

#### BLAINE COUNTY

This county is located north of Custer County, and south of Brown County. It has an area of 711 square miles. This county has a population of between 1,700 and 2,000. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad line to the Black Hills, and Billings runs through this county with stations at Linscott, Dunning and at Halsey, which is on the Blaine-Thomas County line. Both the Middle Loup and North Loup rivers flow through this county. Brewster and Purdum are both inland towns. Brewster, the county seat, is situated in a most beautiful valley. Dunning, the largest town in the county is a very progressive business town, and has in 1920 the best hotel between Grand Island and Alliance, and numerous other modern, up-to-date brick business buildings. Blaine County, in early days, was the scene of much interesting cowboy history and many very profitable "hunting and fishing" episodes. A great deal of traffic is carried on between Brewster and Dunning by auto trucks in recent years.

#### BOONE COUNTY

This county is in the fifth tier west in the state and the third north of the Platte River. It has an area of 692 square miles. The first settlements made in the county were in 1871 by people chiefly from Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Minnesota, among the first party being S. D. Avery, Albert Dresser, N. G. Myers, W. H. Stout, W. H. Prescott, and other early settlers being S. P. Bollman, Harvey Manice, L. H. Baldwin, Richard Evans, T. T. Wilkinson, Elias Atwood, Sr., and John Hammond. Albion, the county seat, was platted in October, 1872, by Loran Clark. The county was organized by act of Legislature, approved March 28, 1871. Towns on the Union Pacific branch to Albion are Boone, St. Edward and Boonville. On the Spalding branch of the Union Pacific, the towns are Cedar Rapids and Primrose. On the Chicago & Northwestern branch into Albion from the north,

are Petersburg and Loretta. St. Edward was laid out in 1871; and Cedar Rapids in 1879. Inland points in the county are, Arden in the very Northwestern corner; Closter and Olmes in the eastern part; and Bradish is on the Northwestern branch into Albion from the east. With three branch lines running into the county, and two of them making junction at Albion, this little city has become an important trading center for a very extensive territory, and hardly any county fair in the state excels the annual exposition held at Albion, each September. Early towns in the county's history that have disappeared, or play no very important part any longer, were Waterville, Dayton, Dublin, Myra, Raville, Oxford, Roselma, Boone and Coon Prairie, some of which never had much more than a general store and school house.

#### BOX BUTTE COUNTY

Box Butte is in the northwestern part of the state, just east of Sioux County, the extreme corner northwestern county. It has an area of 1,076 square miles. It owes its existence to the gold discoveries in the Black Hills in 1876. Prior to then, it was a part of the Brule and Ogallala Sioux Indian reservation territory. But the "Old Sidney" trail to the Black Hills traversed this county, and the mighty rush of gold seekers and freighters verily drove the Indians back. On this noted trail, through Box Butte there were three important stopping places, Hart's ranch at the crossing of Snake Creek, Mayfield's and later the Hughes ranch, at the crossing of the Niobrara, and Halfway Hollow, on the high tableland between. After the Northwestern Railroad was extended to Deadwood, the trail dropped into disuse. Then came the great range herds of the Ogallala Cattle Company, Swan Brothers, Bosler Brothers, the Bay State, and other cow outfits. A unique elevation in the eastern part of the county, the cowboys named "Box Butte," and from that, the county received its name. Later, as the Burlington line built up through the sandhills, the rush of homesteaders came in. This county has a great reputation as a potato raising region and Hemingford is a great potato shipping point. Alliance, the county seat, has built up to a thriving city of approximately 5,000 inhabitants. Letan is on the Burlington branch to Sidney; and stations other than Alliance on the Burlington main line through the county are, Yale, Berea, Hemingford, Girard and Nye. Marple is an inland point.

#### BOYD COUNTY

Boyd is a narrow, long county of some five hundred thirty-five square miles in area cut off from the north end of Holt County. Lying between the Niobrara River and the South Dakota state line, it is entirely cut off from the mother county, Holt. With the Niobrara on the south, Ponca Creek running through the county, and the Missouri River along the northeast edge of the county, it is pretty well watered. The Northwestern branch to Winner, South Dakota, runs diagonally southeast and northwest, and stations along this line, within Boyd County are Monow, Lynch, Bristow, Spencer, the largest town in the county, Anoka and Baker. Other than Butte, the county seat, which the railroad barely missed, inland points are Naper, Gross and Rosedale. The settlements in this county really began much later than those of Holt, and most of the towns built up after the railroad came through.

The county was separated from Holt in 1891, and is the ninetyeth county in the state. It, therefore, has a rather short separate history.

#### BROWN COUNTY

This county borders to the east of Cherry County, and the 100th meridian runs through it. The Niobrara River is its north border, and Blaine County is to the south, and Rock County to the east. It has an area of 1,235 square miles. The Northwestern Railroad runs through the county practically east and west. The stations on this line are the three main towns of the county. Long Pine, Ainsworth and Johnstown, the latter a village of slightly over a hundred and a quarter. Ainsworth, the county seat, is the largest town in the county, having a population of over one thousand. Long Pine is the oldest settled town. H. M. Uttley went from Wisner to Long Pine with a steam saw mill on May 13, 1878, and was the first settler there. Dennis Sullivan and A. N. Bassett settled in that vicinity. A postoffice was established at Bone Creek in August or September, 1878, but in 1881 discontinued and located at Long Pine. The present town of Long Pine, first called Long Pine Station, is probably ten miles below the first Long Pine, located on Long Pine Creek. In 1880 the only points in this vicinity were Long Pine Station, Long Pine, Bone Creek, Evergreen and Burrows. All of the other points in this county are now south of the railroad, and south of Ainsworth and Long Pine. Among these little inland points are, Almi, Sunnyside, Raven, Midvale, Pike, Beardwell, Mary, Giles, Enderslake, Lakeland, and Burgan.

The county was established in 1883, and in the following year, Keya Paha County was taken off the north. Prior to 1883, it was a part of the unorganized territory, and for a while, of the big Sioux County, when that was in an unorganized state.

#### BURT COUNTY

Burt County lies in the eastern tier, flanking on the Missouri River, and is the second county north of Douglas County, containing 475 square miles. It was named in honor of Nebraska Territory's first governor, Francis Burt, being one of the original eight counties. Its county seat, Tekamah was founded in 1855 by B. R. Folsom, W. N. Byers, J. W. Patterson, H. C. Purple, John Young, Jerry Folsom, Mr. Maynard, William T. Raymond, and a Mr. White, in the name of the Nebraska Stock Company, organized in October, 1854. Decatur, in the northeast corner of the county, was located in the fall of 1855, by the Decatur Town and Ferry Company, the principal members of which were Stephen Decatur, Peter A. Sarpy, B. R. Folsom, and W. B. Beck, and platted in the summer of 1856. Settlements were made at Lyons in 1867 and 1868, but the first store opened in 1871. Oakland was started in 1870, upon a site which John Oak, who settled there in 1862, had purchased from the original owner, Mr. Aaron Arlington, who settled in that vicinity in 1859. Baneroff started upon the arrival of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad in 1880, but this town is now in Cuming County. Other stations on the railroad just named are Eureka, Zion, Craig, Peak, and in addition to Decatur being an inland point now, so is Argo. Newton, Arizona, Riverside, Alder Grove postoffice and Golden Spring were former settlements in this county.

## BUFFALO COUNTY

Buffalo County is nearly in the central part of the state: being just south of Custer County, in which the geographical center of the state is located. A famous ranch has been established at the point which is 1,433 miles from New York, and the same distance from San Francisco, this being the midway mark of the continent, east and west, and is very close to the City of Kearney. Buffalo County was first settled by the Mormons in 1858, when they located at Wood River Center, now Shelton, in the very eastern edge of the county. This county suffered some material damage in the Indian raids of 1864, and the exodus of settlers that took place then was a deterrent for a time to its settlement. But by 1870 it had sufficiently recovered to form its own organization. For some ten years it had virtually been a part of Hall County. The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad came through in 1872, some six years after the Union Pacific had built across the county. Kearney Junction, later City of Kearney, was settled in 1870, at the point where the Burlington joined the Union Pacific main line, upon a townsite selected by D. N. Smith, representing Burlington interests. This location was made under the guidance of Moses H. Sydenham, who had resided in that vicinity since 1856, and to whom great credit is due for a guiding influence he exercised in the earliest days of central Nebraska. The Huntsman's Echo, a paper started in 1858 at Wood River Center, by Joseph Johnston, while a Mormon sheet, was probably the first notable venture of the Nebraska Territorial Press in the central part of the state, and is one of the most quoted from of all territorial papers for historical data of that period. Buda, located as Kearney Station, when the Union Pacific reached that point in 1866, for some time was the county seat, but lost this distinction and waned down to a small village. For a few years its name was Shelby and then changed to Buda. Gibbon was laid out in 1871 and has been a most enterprising small town in all of the years. Perhaps no citizen of Gibbon had done more to make its name well known and revered in the State of Nebraska than Hon. Samuel C. Bassett. Mr. Bassett has served the agricultural interests of the state in many ways, and been one of the foremost students of Nebraska history and writer of a most interesting and instructive column in recent years published weekly in the Nebraska State Journal. Some years ago he prepared an excellent history of Buffalo County, and has served as president of the State Historical Society for the past few years. Elm Creek was started along about 1870, and Stevenson and Odessa became stopping points on the railroad very early. Butler's Ranch and Optie are also merely flagging stations. When the Burlington line to the Black Hills and Wyoming was built, St. Michael, Ravenna, the second largest town in the county and a Burlington division point, and Sweetwater sprang up. There are several stations on a Union Pacific branch from Kearney toward Stapleton; being Glenwood Peak, Riverdale, Amherst, Watertown and Miller. Natasket, South Ravenna, Pleasanton and Poole, are in the very northern edge of the county on another Union Pacific branch, and inland points are Sartoris and Peake.

## BUTLER COUNTY

This county is located in the eastern part of the state, fifty-one miles directly west of the Missouri River and even with Omaha as to north and south position,



containing an area of 583 square miles. The county was visited by Fremont in his expedition of 1842, but the first permanent settlement was made in 1857. The county was organized in 1868, and Savannah, the first county seat held that distinction for only four years, when it lost to David City, the present county seat. The first railroad built in was the Burlington & Missouri River Company in 1880. Since then the county has become pretty well honeycombed with railroads, David City being an important junction point for diverging branch lines. Ulysses, at the very southern edge of the county was started in 1868, and is several years the senior of David City. During the four years, Savannah, which was laid out as early as 1859, had the court house; it was a thriving village. When the Omaha & Republican Valley branch, now Union Pacific, built through this county in 1878 several enterprising stations were located, among which were Rising City and Brainard. Other towns in the county along this line are Loma and Poley. Brainard was on the old Mormon trail through this vicinity. Other towns in the county now are Surprise, Millerton, Dwight, in the southern part, and Octavia, Brono, Able, Nimburg, Linwood, and Edholm, in the northern part. The Platte River forms the northern boundary of the county.

## CASS COUNTY

Cass is one of the original counties of the state, immediately south of Sarpy County. Its first settlement by Samuel Martin in 1853 has been elsewhere narrated. In 1856 it had a population of 1,251. Plattsmouth, its county seat, very early became an important railroad town and one of the important towns of the state. The first company of Nebraska volunteers in the war of the Rebellion was organized at Plattsmouth on the same day that the news of the breaking out of the war was received. Soon after the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad built into Plattsmouth in 1869, it located its principal shops there. The Missouri Pacific Railroad came into the county in 1882. Speculators, as well as settlers, came into this county in the late '50s, and by the speculating element, three townsites were laid out on Weeping Water Creek; that of Weeping Water, which has survived and made a splendid town; of Grand Rapids and Caledonia, the later town of Grand Rapids taking another site. Louisville was incorporated by the Legislature in 1857, but no substantial building took place until the Burlington Railroad arrived in 1870. Greenwood, in the very northwest corner of the county, was located in 1869 by S. C. Bethel; Rock Bluff City, later Rock Bluff, was laid out in 1856, and another town North Rock Bluff, laid out about the same time, was consolidated with it in 1858. South Bend was laid out by speculators in 1857, but not much done in way of building until 1870 when the railroad arrived. Factoryville was the site of three mills and an attempt to build a town around the early milling industry. Avoca was platted in 1882, at the crossing of the Missouri Pacific and Wabash tracks; Union grew from a settlement made as early as 1869; Elmwood grew from a very early settlement; and many newer towns have sprung up and flourished. Among the more prominent of these are perhaps Nehawka, which though small has furnished the state with statesmen; in recent years Gov. Geo. L. Sheldon and Congressman E. M. Pollard living in that vicinity. Avoca platted in 1857; Englo, on the Lancaster County line in southwestern corner; Wabash; Murray, Mynard; Oreapolis, a railroad point of some importance; La Platta,

Cullom, Cedar creek, Munley, Murdock, Alvo, and Prairie Home. Among numerous towns projected in this county, which further evidence the spirit of speculation that strikes every new country and of which Cass County was a good example of its effect on our territorial days, were Cedar creek City, filed plat in 1870; Elgin, 1857; Clay City, November, 1856; Troy, 1857; Saline, 1857; Cladonia, 1857; Capital City, 1857; Carlisle, 1856; Bluffdale, 1857; Centerville, 1857; Kanosha, 1858, and Eldorado, 1857.

#### CEDAR COUNTY

This county is located in the very northeastern corner of the state, and has an area of 735 square miles. It was organized in 1857. In the years 1858, 1862 and 1863, the Indians committed many depredations in Cedar County, burning homes, stealing stock and murdering a few settlers. St. Helena, was the early county seat, succeeding the very first county seat, St. James, in 1859. These two places are now inland points in the very northern part of the county. The first settlers in the county were a group from Harrison County, Iowa. Waucapona as well as St. Helena was settled in 1858. Then Saby Strahm and a few others started Strahmberg, in northwest corner of county opposite the present town of Yankton, South Dakota. This county had a number of other towns, that no longer extensively flourish, being Smithland, Logan Valley, St. Peters, Center Bow, Bow Valley, and Menominee, most of which had a postoffice, store and school, and did not survive railroad extensions. Hartington is now the county seat and principal town of the county. A group of very splendid towns grew up in the south part of the county after the arrival of the railroads, being Randolph, a junction point of two lines; Belden, Laurel, likewise a junction point of two lines of railroad; Magnet, Coleridge. In the northern part, are a new station called St. James; Wynot, Fordyce, with Aten as an inland point, practically at the old Strahmberg location.

#### CHASE COUNTY

This county is located in the extreme western part, bordering on Colorado, and being just north of the extreme corner county, Dundy. The early occupation in this county was cattle raising exclusively, and it was not until in the late '80s that settlement for farming purposes came in very thickly. Frease and Wauneta were the first towns in the county, and the latter is still an important town, being second town in the county. Imperial, the county seat, is the terminus of a branch from Culbertson, the only railroad line into the county. Imperial, Wauneta and Enders are the three railroad stations in the county. The other points, all being inland, are Best, Champion, Lamar and Chase in the western part of the county, and Catherine and Blanche, in the northeastern part. While the county was given legal establishment in 1873, it did not really function for some years later.

#### CHERRY COUNTY

This is the largest county in the state, with an area of 5,979 square miles; but a large portion of this not very densely settled. The county is traversed east and west by the Niobrara Railroad and has the main line of the Northwestern Railroad to the Black Hills running across the county. This county was a part of the

unorganized territory, until that vast region assumed the name of Sioux County. It was given separate establishment in 1883, and was named in memory of Lieut. Samuel A. Cherry, Fifth Cavalry, who was killed near Rock Creek, Dakota, about eight miles north of Fort Niobrara, May 11, 1881. The people who thought their "right of petition" had the selecting of a name for the county were most of them acquainted with the valiant soldier, and the name was adopted by practically universal consent. Fort Niobrara in those stormy days was the main center of activities in that region. By the time of the establishment of the county there were practically no settlements within its borders except Fort Niobrara, McCann, and Poor's Ranch. Cherry County is dotted with hundreds of lakes, but among those which had received a name forty years ago, were Lake Stephenson, Soda Lake in western part of the county; Dad's Lake, Red Deer Lake, Marsh Lake and Pelican Lake. The stations and towns that have built up along the railroad now are Wood Lake, Arabia, Thatcher, Valentine, the county seat and thriving metropolis of the county; Crookston, Kilgore, Neuzel, Cody, Roxby, Eli, Merriman, Leat, Irwin, Soudan. Cherry County has a myriad of inland points; along the Niobrara River are, Bayonne, Harlan, Lavaca, Bailey, McCann, Burge, and north of the railroad, are Britt, Harmony, Hire, and Sparks. In the vicinity of Snake River are Dewey Lake, Hood, Lake; along Boardman's Creek, are Lund, Balfe, Rolf, Chesterfield, and Matteson, at its junction with Snake River. Along the North Loup River are Pullman, at its headwaters, Capwell, Ethel, DeWitty, Brownlee, the important trading center of the southern portion of the county; Lewanna, Cascade and Elsmere. In the southwestern quarter, west and south of the headwaters of the North Loup are Martindale, Survey, King, Pullman, Big Creek, Curlew, Cherry, Erik, and Wells. In the eastern portion of the county, inland points mainly in the lake vicinity are, Kennedy, Oasis, Red, Deer, Conterra, Vian, Rex, Elizabeth, and Simeon. It is very probable that places just as important as some of these have been omitted among the myriad of such inland points in this county, which is in itself a vast and partially undeveloped empire.

#### CHEYENNE COUNTY

Cheyenne County was organized by the second state legislature by act approved June 12, 1867. An election was not held until 1870, and the first officers were then elected. The county was quite appropriately named for the Cheyenne Indians. The county, in the period extending from 1864, when the Indians began to resent the intrusion of the numerous white settlers, was the scene of a great deal of military activity. Numerous military camps and forts were established in the borders of the county as it then existed. In September, 1864, Camp Shuman was established three miles west of Scottsbluff Gap; and minor fortifications at Ficklin's, nine miles east of Scottsbluff, and Mud Springs, eight miles easterly from Courthouse Rock. Fort Grattan was built at the mouth of Ash Hollow, after the battle of that name. Fort Sidney was established December 13, 1867, known then as Sidney Barracks. It became an independent post November 28, 1870, and was abandoned June 1, 1874. Sidney built up after the railroad came through in 1867. Lodgepole, Sunol, Potter, Colton and Herndon soon followed, and later stations established on the Union Pacific, have been Margate and Brownson. The Burlington branch from Alliance to Sterling and Denver, Colorado, has brought about a

number of towns, including Lorenzo, Huntsville, Marlowe, Gurley and Dalton. Numerous inland points in this county, as it finally stands after six counties have been taken out of its original area, are Sextorp, Leafdale, Ickes, Clara, Henry and Weyerts.

#### CLAY COUNTY

This name was first given to a county later absorbed by Gage and Lancaster, and in 1867 transferred to the present Clay County, in the second tier from the south border of state and three counties west of Lincoln, with an area of 579 square miles. The first white settlement was made by John B. Weston, afterwards auditor of the state, in 1857. A group of about as evenly balanced towns in population and trade strategical positions has been built up in this county, as it would be possible to find anywhere within such close confines. Of these five towns, Sutton, the largest, and the first county seat of the county, was started in 1870, by settlement of Luther French; but the first business house opened in May, 1871. Harvard started in 1871. Edgar had a postoffice established in 1872, and was laid out in 1873. Fairfield was projected in 1872 when the St. Joe and Western Railroad reached that far. When the B. & M. Railroad came in, Sutton and Grafton had a very bitter struggle for supremacy, as it was proposed to leave Sutton without a depot. Clay Center started in 1879, and eventually won the county-seat-ship. With five such splendid towns, all having more than a thousand population, Clay County has a large number of other railroad stations; among which are Ong, Deweese, Springranch, Alma Junction, Glenville, Verona, Saronville, Inland, Trumbull and Eldorado. Inland was laid out in 1871; Glenville in 1873; and Springranch established as a postoffice in 1870.

#### COLFAX COUNTY

Colfax is in the third tier from the Missouri River, on the north banks of the Platte River, and contains 276,480 acres of land. It was first settled in 1856, but the early settlements did not flourish very generally until the Union Pacific Railroad was built through in 1865-6. Schuyler, the county seat, was established in 1869. The story of the foundation of Buchanan has been told in another chapter in this work, relating to establishment of towns. Rogers and Richland were early shipping points on the Union Pacific main line. Richland at one time was called Benton and was a town of some promise. Lambert is another station on the Union Pacific main line. A line of the Northwestern road running east and west through the north side of the county has built up Howells, Clarkson and Leigh, three thriving little towns, and Bissell, Henn and Wells are inland towns.

#### CUMING COUNTY

Cuming County is in the northeastern part of the state, with only Burt between it and the Missouri River to the east, and contains 504 square miles. It was originally settled in 1856, by Benjamin B. Moore, wife, daughter and three sons, from Hillsdale, Mich. They settled at Catherine, or Dead Timber, as then called. In March, 1857, Uriah Bruner, John J. Bruner, Henry A. Koters, William Sexaner, Andrew J. Bruner, Peter Weindheim, Henry Eike, Charles Beindorf and

others of Omaha, organized as "The Nebraska Settlement Association," and the results of their surveys and excursions was the town of West Point, in the southeast corner of the county, and the future county seat of the county. John D. Neligh was an early settler and the first treasurer of the county. West Point was platted and surveyed as a town in 1869. A store was opened at Wisner the same year. Bancroft was platted in 1880 when the branch to Pender went through. Beemer is another town, between Wisner and West Point that has built into a thriving trade center. Monterey is an inland point. Cuming County has about as few towns in the state as any county of its size, but is in an excellent agricultural district and is a very prosperous county.

#### \*CUSTER COUNTY

Custer County is the second largest county in the state, and is situated right in the center. The geographical center of the state is near Westerville in eastern Custer County. It would take a separate volume to do justice to even a condensed history of Custer County. Settlements were not made in this county, of a permanent nature, until 1873 and 1874. The county was organized in 1877 and named after the martyred Gen. George A. Custer, who had met his tragic death in the preceding year. The first county seat projected was Custer, on the South Loup River, some twenty miles south of its eventual successor, Broken Bow. A proposed Garber County, just west of Valley, and in present northeastern Custer County, failed of organization, but the name stuck for some time to that territory until after the organization of the present Custer County. The remainder of the unorganized territory in this region was for a time known as Kountze County, after the wealthy bankers of Omaha, but that name was likewise superseded by Custer. Lewis R. Dowse, who settled in the Middle Loup Valley in 1873, is accorded generally the honor of being the first settler in the county, antedating the others. The first post-office established in the county was at New Helena by C. R. Matthews. The different localities gradually settled up; Lee's Park, in 1874; Spencer's Park, in 1879; Lillian, 1880 or 1881; Merna Valley in 1882; W. G. Brotherton being one of the pioneer settlers of this region; Custer Center in 1880, when there was no Broken Bow yet; but there was a postoffice of that name kept by Mr. Pelham. The west table filled up from 1883 on. In June, 1889, settlers commenced to come to Dale. Redfern Table started to settle up in 1883-4. W. A. George, who had been in the county temporarily thirteen years before, settled near Georgetown in 1887, and thus the county filled up during the '80s very rapidly. In 1880, Wilson Hewitt was postmaster upon his homestead, but the name sent in had been rejected, and while he was trying to figure out a new name, the children brought in a broken arrow and bow, and he sat down and sent in the name "Broken Bow" which was accepted, and for many years remained the only town in the country with that name, until a large lumber company which had started its business career at Broken Bow, named a town in Oklahoma after the Nebraska town. The townsite was platted in 1882 by Jess Gandy, and the postoffice there then kept by C. D. Pelham, who had a store also. Westerville was an early town, and lost the county seat to Broken Bow, but two county fairs were held there, in 1883 and 1884, but Broken Bow secured the fair after that. Merna was projected in 1883, and has developed into a very important town. Lee's Park was laid out in 1884. But this town and Wescott

lost out, when the railroad built up the Middle Loup Valley, and Comstock, surveyed in 1899 and named for W. H. Comstock, and Sargent, secured the railroad line. The first settler in the South Loup Valley was Frederick Schreyer, who came in 1875. Mr. J. Woods Smith, in 1885, while reading in a paper in the lobby of the Paxton Hotel in Omaha that the Omaha & Republican Valley Railroad was going to build a branch up the South Loup Valley, from the Wood River Valley and Kearney, went to the map and chose a site for a townsite, which materialized into Callaway, the town being named in honor of S. R. Callaway, then general manager of the Union Pacific road. Dr. L. Micheal, Harry O'Neill and John Moran were among the first to build business places in the new town. The postoffice on the Graves farm called Delight was moved and name changed to Callaway. Berwyn started in 1887. Mason City, the "Queen City of the Muddy," was located by the Lincoln Land Co. in 1886; Sargent was laid out in 1883; Ansley was projected in 1886; Anselmo, named for Anselmo Smith, a Burlington surveyor, was started about 1886; Oconto was located in 1887, and Arnold, named in honor of George Arnold, was laid out in 1883, but waited practically forty years for the arrival of the railroad. Other stations in Custer County, are Lodi, Triumph, Mildale, on the Union Pacific branch that runs through Callaway, Oconto and Arnold on up to Stapleton. Inland points are Scandia, Cumro, Georgetown, Etna, Table, Tuckerville, Ryno, McKinley, and Klump in the southern and western part of the county, some of which have been virtually abandoned in recent years. In the eastern and northern parts, there are Huxley, Kingston, Coburg, Elton, Weissart, Round Valley, Gates, Millburn, Phillipsburg and Walworth.

#### DAKOTA COUNTY

This county is in the northeastern corner of the state, with the Missouri River as its northeastern border, being virtually a triangular county, with only 253 square miles of area. It was created in 1855. Dakota City, the county seat was located in 1856. Ten miles west of Dakota City was started Jackson, first called Franklin, the name changed to avoid conflict with another town of that name. This started about 1860. Homer, in the southeastern part of the county, started in 1872. Other towns in the county are Hubbard, started 1880; Covington, started 1856, five miles north of Dakota City on the Missouri River; Emerson, formerly in this county, but now in Thurston County, was established in 1881. Other more modern towns are Nacora, Coburn, Wood Park, Goodwin and Vista.

#### DAWES COUNTY

Situate within a few miles of the foot of the famous Black Hills, in the extreme northwestern portion of Nebraska, with only Sioux County between it and Wyoming, lies Dawes County. The territory embraced in Dawes County was first settled in 1884, by a band of as hardy and determined pioneers as ever crossed the plains to seek homes in the Great West. Prominent citizens who signed a petition in 1885 included the following early settlers among others, Cyrus Fairchild, B. S. Paddock, E. S. Nesbitt, E. Egan, B. F. Carley, F. M. Dorrington, J. H. McMillan and W. H. Reynolds. The location of the county seat was hotly contested between Chadron and Dawes City, the latter now known as Whitney, but Chadron won by

a vote of 582 to 364, and 3 cast for Bordeaux. The county is 36 miles square. The Nebraska and Northwestern division of the Northwestern, has developed the towns of Bordeaux, Chadron, Dakota Junction; Whitney, and Crawford, the junction of this line and the Burlington, which also has the stations of Horn, Rutland, Belmont, Dooley and Marshland at the southern border of the county. Wayside is on a branch that leads from Chadron into the Black Hills. Inland points are Pine Ridge, Dunlap, Pepper Creek, Antelope, Wolvington, Manchester, Hough. Any county with two such thriving, metropolitan cities as Chadron and Crawford has a future before it. In recent years, different wholesale houses over the country have been choosing one or the other of these cities for distributing center, and Crawford is especially well located for this purpose, while Chadron is developing as a railroad point.

#### DAWSON COUNTY

Dawson County is situated 215 miles west of the Missouri River, on the banks of the Platte River, and contains 985 square miles. In the times of the overland freight and emigrant traffic, Dawson presented many lively aspects, and in the days of the cattle range, Plum Creek was a terminus of fame, along with Ogallala to the west. The county was settled in 1861-3 to a very slight extent. The county was organized in 1871. It was in Dawson County that the famous raid was started in 1864 with the massacre of the emigrant train of eleven wagons. Plum Creek, was established in 1871. In 1889 its name was changed to Lexington, and it is today a thriving little city. Overton was first settled in 1873, and in that same year, John J. Cozad came out from Ohio and bought land of the Union Pacific, and made arrangements for a town there. It was at one time called Hundredth Meridian, as it is located practically\* on that line, but eventually took the name, Cozad. Willow Island was laid out early in the '80s, and later another town started west of it, at the very western edge of the county, that is a very thriving small town, Gothenberg. Farnam in the southwest corner is on a Union Pacific branch; Sumner and Eddyville in the northeastern corner are on another Union Pacific branch. Josselyn is a station some forty years old. Dass and Buffalo are about the only inland points.

#### DEUEL COUNTY

Deuel County was organized in the fall of 1888, when it was cut off from Cheyenne County. This division held until 1910 when Garden County was divided from the north portion, Deuel County was named after a division superintendent of the Union Pacific. Much of the early history of the county is embraced in the general story of Cheyenne. Its county seat, Chappell, like Sidney, dates back to its first beginnings to the time the Union Pacific came through about 1866, or 1867. Big Springs and Barton sprang up before the county was settled for more than ranching purposes. Perdu and Ralton are other stations on the Union Pacific line. Between Big Springs and Chappell, the two main towns of the county, the Union Pacific line delves down into Colorado and touches Julesburg. This famous old frontier town has been so closely associated with Deuel County, or perhaps vice versa, that it is hard to separate the two. With Garden County taking 1,652 square miles of area, Deuel was left with only 439 square miles, so it must make up in quality what it lost in quantity.

## DIXON COUNTY

Dixon county is the most northeasterly county in the state, and has an area of 472 square miles. Previous to the advent of white men, this county was the home of various tribes of Indians, mainly the Poncas. The first settlers, so far as can be ascertained, arrived in 1856, and among them were John, Solomon B., and Jacob Stough, two brothers named Brown, C. F. Putnam, and W. H. Jones. Hard times visited these first colonies in 1857 and 1858, and the Indian massacres in 1862 retarded growth for a time. Ponca, was surveyed and platted in 1856 by Doctor Stough and Frank West, its first chief proprietors. Martinsburg, now an inland point, was started in 1873. Towns that once flourished in this county were, Logan Grove, Parkhill postoffice, New Castle, Ionia, Lime Creek, Aoway Creek, Dailey Branch, Ellis, Silver Ridge, Hawkeye, and Spring Bank. Like other older counties, many changes have taken place in the smaller settlements. Towns now prominent in this county are, Wakefield, on Wayne-Dixon county line; Concord on the Hartington branch of the C., St. P., M. & O.; Dixon and Allen on another branch line, and Newcastle and Manskell in the northern part of the county above Ponca.

## DODGE COUNTY

Dodge County is located in the second tier of counties from the Missouri River, and on the Platte River. It has an area of 531 square miles. The first settlement was made in 1856, when John and Arthur Bloomer made claims near the mouth of Maple Creek, in April. On May 25th, Mrs. Wealthy Beebe and her children and Abram McNeal, her son-in-law, settled two miles west of where Fremont later sprang up. On July 4th, the North Bend Colony arrived, and in August, 1856, the first settlements were made toward the inception of Fremont, where a town company was formed under the name of Pinney, Barnard & Co. On September 3, 1856, the town was named for Gen. John C. Fremont, the republican presidential candidate, and a man who certainly played no small part in discovering the possibilities of Nebraska. But, with all that appropriateness, it might have never received that name had it not been for its rival, twenty-five miles away on Shell Creek, named Buchanan. When the Sioux City & Pacific, the Elkhorn Valley branch of the Union Pacific was built, Scriber and Hooper sprang up about 1871. Timberville and Wallace, early stations on the Union Pacific have been displaced by Sandberg, and Ames, and Bay State. On the Scriber and Hooper branch, some forty years ago were also Oak Springs and Crowell, but now that northern part of the county boasts of Dodge and Snyder, as well as Crowell and Junction. Pleasant Valley, Everett and Clyde are inland points, and Nickerson, West End and Winslow are on another branch line. Mapleville, Pebble, Webster, Bohemia, Glenroe, Jamestown, Jalapa and Galena were formerly thriving inland points.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

This is the county of largest population in the state. With the City of Omaha, in its borders, having a population of over 191,000, or virtually 200,000 people, and perhaps one-sixth or more of the population of the state within its borders, this county presents a volume of history that it is absolutely impossible to condense



in the space this review can allot, and do ample justice in a fractional measure. It was one of the eight original counties, proclaimed by Governor Cuming. The first important settlements, as outlined in the chapter dealing more closely with towns, was made by the Mormons at Florence. The foundation of Omaha was also sketched therein. In 1854, the territorial capital was located at Omaha, and though that distinction was some thirteen years later surrendered to the new village of Lincoln, Omaha at once started to grow into the position of the metropolis of the state, and now not only has that position firmly launched, but is a serious contender for the broader distinction of being the commercial, industrial and manufacturing "Gateway of the Northwest." From the time the first ground was broken for the Union Pacific Railroad on December 3, 1863, Omaha's growth started by leaps and bounds. By 1870 the city had a population of 16,000, a figure now only eclipsed in the state, fifty years later, by Omaha and Lincoln. By 1880, Omaha was a city of around 40,000, and in 1920 barely missed 200,000. Florence, Dundee, Benson and South Omaha were recently taken into the corporate limits of Omaha, and became a part of Greater Omaha. The latter, South Omaha, with its great packing houses and stock yards, located therein, had reached the proportions of a city of almost 30,000 when it joined its bigger sister. Albright and Ralston are thriving suburbs, so far escaped from annexation. Waterloo, laid out in 1871, and Millard, also laid out in 1871, and named for Ezra Millard, its founder, are thriving outside towns in the county. Mercer, Bonnington, Briggs, Elkhorn and Lane are smaller points in this county. The history of the state cannot be written on any subject treated elsewhere in this state historical review without touching extensively upon Omaha and Douglas County.

#### DUNDY COUNTY

Dundy County is situated in the extreme southwestern corner of the state with Colorado bounding it on the west, and Kansas on the south. Its area is 927 square miles. The census of 1880 showed a population of 1,880, and its settlements before that, dating back to 1872, were mainly for cattle ranching purposes. At the mouth of the Arickaree, J. Haigler had a ranch in 1872. The first principal settlement was around Collinsville, named in 1880 for Moses Collins. During 1881 and part of 1882, this point did a considerable business, being for that time a supply distributing station for the railroad. Early in the spring of 1882, the railroad company, having built a depot, changed its name to Benkleman, in honor of the extensive stock raiser, J. G. Benkleman. Other stations along the Burlington line in this county are Haigler, in the southwestern corner of the county; Parks and Max. Inland points are Lamont, Rollwitz and Lux. The county was organized for governmental purposes long after its legislative establishment, which was enacted in 1873, and was named in honor of United States Judge, Elmer S. Dundy. For many years it was attached to Hitchcock County for legislative, judicial and revenue purposes, and composed of but one precinct in its local government.

#### FILLMORE COUNTY

Fillmore County is located twenty-four miles north of southern boundary of the state, and ninety miles west from the Missouri River, with an area of 576 square

miles. The first settlement in the county was made in 1866, by William Bussard and William Whitaker. In 1868 a few more settlers came in, but it was in 1870 that the rush of emigration started. The county was organized in 1871, and in that year Geneva and Fairmont were laid out. Of the other towns, Grafton was founded in 1874, and Exeter, in 1871. The Burlington system built into the county in 1871, and in 1888 the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (now Northwestern) came in. Exeter is the junction of the Burlington east and west line, and a branch crossing from Seward down to Superior and the other towns that have developed on this line through the county are Sawyer (Geneva already mentioned), Martland, Shickley and Carlisle. In the south part on another line of railroad are Strang, W. Strang, E. Strang and Ohiowa, with Shickley as the junction between that B. & M. branch and the other one just named. Milligan and Burress are on a branch that comes up from Fairbury and comes into Fairmont. Lyman is on still another branch. With six branch lines entering or traversing such a small county, it is one of the few counties in the state without an inland point of any consequence, for no farm in Fillmore County could be very many miles away from at least one or two lines of railroad.

#### FRANKLIN COUNTY

Franklin County is in the southern tier of counties, 175 miles west of the Missouri River, and has an area of 578 square miles. It was settled in 1870 by a colony from Omaha, among whom were Wm. C. Thompson, Jas. W. Thompson, Richard Beckwith, John Corbin, Isaac Chappel and Barnett Ashbourne. In the following year practically every man in the colony joined a military company, formed to protect the settlements against the Indians. The county was formally organized in September, 1871. Bloomington, the county seat until 1920, was laid out in 1872. The Burlington Railroad line came in during 1879. The original Thompson party located at a point that later became Riverton, where the postoffice was established in 1871. Naponee was made a postoffice also in 1871. Franklin City was the earliest settlement that made a town, but another town which was first called Waterloo, was laid out, and always known as Franklin, and this place held the county seat until 1874, when Bloomington captured it, and in 1920 Franklin recaptured this coveted prize. In 1879, a town was laid out by the railroad company between the two Franklins, and it was that town which eventually captured the name. An academy, started in 1881 at Franklin, is an educational institution of wide repute. In the north part of the county along the Burlington branch to Curtis, the thriving towns of Campbell, Upland and Hildreth, have built up. Macon is still an inland point, and points that used to play a part in Franklin County affairs were Moline, Ash Grove, West Salem, Stockton, Amazon, Langdon, Marion, Clyde, Sand Hill, Freewater and Orange. The Republican River traverses the county through the southern tier of townships.

#### FRONTIER COUNTY

Frontier County is situated well toward the southwestern part of the state, in the second tier from the south, and with two counties yet west of it. It has an area of 975 square miles. The county was organized in January, 1872. At that

time there were several stock raisers, and two permanent settlers, Henry C. and Mortimer H. Clifford, who had married squaws and settled on the Medicine, a short distance from where Stockville was later located, and lived in lodges there. Stockville, very nearly in the center of the county, was the first settlement projected, and became the county seat. Curtis is the principal town in the county, and in 1911 secured the new State Agricultural College, to be located in the central or western portion of the state. Three other towns have built up along the Burlington Railroad in this county, besides Curtis. These are Maywood, Moorefield and Eustis. Besides Stockville, the only well-developed inland towns, are a number of inland points for postoffices or trading purposes, among these being Osburn, Counterpoint, Havana, Freedom, Essex, Quick, Stevens, Orafino and Earl. Laird, Stowe, Afton and Equality were formerly such inland points on this county's map that no longer seem to be on the scene of action.

#### FURNAS COUNTY

This county lies in the southern tier of counties, with three more counties to the west. It contains 721 square miles. The first settler is reputed to have been Benjamin Burton, who located there in 1870. Galen James made his way up the Republican Valley about this same time, to near Melrose and located at the junction of Sarpy County with the Beaver, which is a point practically on the present Furnas-Harlan county line, but in what was then known as James County. Theodore Phillips came in 1871 to a locality that became the settlement of New Era. Burton's Bend was started in 1871 by J. B. Burton at a point five miles west of Arapahoe. Arapahoe was surveyed in 1872. The first store in Beaver City, was started in 1873, but the town was settled in October, 1872. Arapahoe had been started through the efforts of a townsite company organized at Plattsmouth, in 1871, with Capt. F. B. Murphy, Charles Brown, Geo. W. Love, John Fitzgerald, Dr. W. E. Dowland, D. H. Wheeler, H. M. Crum, George W. Colvin, and A. Lashley as leading spirits. In the first elections with Arapahoe and Beaver City contesting for the advantage of being county seat, Beaver City had the most votes, but its returns did not arrive in the office of the secretary of state until the day after the canvassing was set, and as only Arapahoe's votes were counted it won, for the time being. But at the first general election in the county, in 1873, Beaver City won the prize, and has since retained it. Wilsonville was settled in 1872 and established as a post-office in 1873. Hendley was established by a Hastings townsite company in 1888. Other towns along the Imperial branch of the Burlington, besides Arapahoe, are Oxford, Edison, Holbrook and Cambridge and all four of these have developed into very well known trading and shipping centers. Only Springgreen and Precept remain actively on the list of inland points, which formerly some forty years ago also included Wilmot, Midway, Richmond, Sherman, Rockton, Coldwater, Carisbrook, Lynden, Whitney, and Rexford, and it might also be noted that in the early '80s, Beaver City and Wilsonville were, of course, also inland points.

#### GAGE COUNTY

Gage County is in the third tier of counties west of the Missouri River, and is the only county between Lancaster (Lincoln) and the Kansas line, and contains

832 square miles. The first settler was David Palmer, who came to the county in 1854, or 1855. Mr. Palmer was drowned in 1876 while swimming in the Blue River. On the morning of April 3, 1857, thirty-five persons on board the steamer Hannibal, then plying the Missouri between St. Louis and Nebraska City, organized themselves into a colony, which formed with a written constitution and by-laws, and upon arrival in what is now Gage County they chose a site and started the town of "Beatrice" so named after a daughter of Judge John F. Kinney, of Nebraska City, one of the leaders of the colony. Other leading spirits were J. B. Weston, later state auditor; G. T. Loomis, J. R. Nelson, Albert Towle, Dr. H. M. Reynolds, Bennett Pike, John McConibe, H. F. Cook and Dr. Wise. In the same year another settlement was made seven miles north of Beatrice, and still another at Blue Springs, ten miles southeast of Beatrice. The former, on Steven's Creek was in what was for a while Clay County. This settlement, which later took the name of Indian Creek was eclipsed by Beatrice in a commercial way. The Indians caused some trouble in the early history of these settlements, but treaties with the Government soon quieted down this situation. To a citizen of Gage County fell the honor of securing the first homestead entered in the United States. The homestead law went into effect in January, 1863, and he was ready the night before to secure his filing, stopping on his way to military service in the pending war. His patent is numbered 1, and is recorded in Volume I, page 1 of the records of the general land office at Washington. The B. & M. reached Beatrice through the valley of the Blue in 1871. The Atchison & Nebraska, cuts across the northeast corner of the county, with about ten miles of line and one station, Adams. The Rock Island across the northwest corner of the county has Clatonia, and its branch east and west across the county, through Beatrice, has Virginia, Rockford and Ellis. The Burlington branch across the county east and west through Beatrice has Filley, a station also for Rockford, and Hoag. The Union Pacific line from Lincoln to Manhattan, north and south through the county, through Beatrice, has as stations, Cortland, and Pickrell, north of Beatrice and to the south, Putnam, Blue Springs, Wymore and Barnestou. Another B. & M. line across the south edge of the county, which makes junction with the U. P. at Wymore, has developed the towns of Liberty, Kriders, Odell, Odell Junction and Lanham on a branch that breaks off at Odell Junction. Thus it will be noticed that Gage County is well honeycombed with railroad lines. Holmesville and Blue Springs Junction are on another spur of the Union Pacific. Only Hanover and Townsend appear to be actively on a list of inland points that forty years ago included Reserve, Dover, Wild Cat, Cottage Hill, Bear Creek, Melroy, Greer, Freeman, Roperville, Blaine, Barkey, Merserveville, and Silver. The old Otoe Indian reservation occupied the four townships in the southern tier of the county. The Otoe Agency was near the site of present town of Liberty.

#### GARDEN COUNTY

This county was cut off from Deuel County in 1910 and its history is mainly wrapped up in that of Deuel since 1888, and before that in the great mother county, Cheyenne. The principal permanent settlements, except for the early ranching activities of the great cattle ranchers, materialized late in the '80s and early '90s. Forty years ago there was not a settlement in this county and the only points charted

on maps were Rocky Point, Swan Lake and Beaver Lake. But this county has a number of very prosperous and thriving towns along the branch of the Union Pacific that comes up from North Platte, and goes on to the western edge of the state. Oshkosh is the county seat, and Lewellan, Lutherville, Penn, Lytle and Lisco, the other towns. To the south, the only inland point is Kowanda. The Platte River traverses the county, south of the railroad line. To the north a few inland points have sprung up, being mainly at Goodland, Velma, Warren, Lakeview, Tippetts, Rackett, Mumper, Orlando, Pawlet, Sterbins, Moffit and Thelma. On division, this county took 1652 square miles of territory and left Deuel with only 439 square miles of area.

## GARFIELD COUNTY

The beginnings of Garfield County were laid in November, 1872, when Charles H. Jones, who came from Allegan, Michigan, after two years of roughing it, in the lower Loup Valleys, went up into the present Garfield County territory, and became the founder of the Willow Springs settlement. It is reputed that Trueman Freeman arrived very soon after Jones had squatted at the mouth of the cedar canyons. With him came Thomas McClimans, so the latter may be considered the third settler. William Pierson and A. R. Harper arrived in February, 1873, and soon after came Richard McClimans, the Messengers, William Draver, William Smith, Mrs. Bumpus, George Leffingwell, Captain Alger, Frank Webster, L. W. White Geo. McAnnly, Ike Bartholomew, Geo. Horton, Stephen Chase, Wm. Wertz, A. A. Alderman, and Ross and Wm. Woods. Garfield County is immediately south of Holt County and eighth county to the west from the Missouri River, and has an area of 575 square miles. The Battle of Pebble Creek in 1874 was the crux of Indian troubles the early settlers experienced, for in 1876 relief came in the establishment of Fort Hartsuff, the famous military post of the Loup region, within the borders of this county. For more than eight years after settlements began, Garfield County was in what was known as the "Unorganized Territory." For judicial and taxation purposes it was attached to Valley County. But in 1881, it was a part of the newly organized county of Wheeler, which had been established by the Legislature of 1877. In 1884, the actual division took place and Garfield County was separately organized. Burwell was proclaimed by the Governor as the first county seat—and at the election on December 30, 1884, there were three bitter contestants, Willow Springs, Burwell and Midvale. Midvale received the smallest number of votes, Willow Springs the highest, and another election was held on January 30, 1885, which resulted in Willow Springs leading by seven votes, but upon a recount in April, Burwell won by twenty-three votes and captured the prize. But a very interesting fight ensued for Willow Springs got the certificate of election. In 1887 the Burlington Railroad extended its grade to Burwell and on to Butka on the Calamus. The railroad never extended beyond Burwell, but that was the death blow to Willow Springs. So in an election in 1890 the county seat question was permanently settled in Burwell's favor. This county has several inland post-office points, namely: Easton, Erina, Gables, Rosevale, Deverre, Dumas, Blake and Ballagh, but bears the unique distinction among Nebraska counties of having only one actually developed town, Burwell. Another distinction borne by Burwell is that it was laid out with a public octagon, with the side streets diverging from the

centers of the sides, instead of the corners of the square. Then by a failure to preserve the central octagon for a park, business houses have built up on it and disfigured it, so Burwell has a square with business houses on both sides of the street, instead of a park or court house in the center, and the streets meeting the square in the middle of the sides.

#### GOSPER COUNTY

Gosper County is in the western part of the state, four tiers east of the western Colorado edge, and in the second tier north of Kansas line. It contains 464 square miles. Otto Renze made the first permanent settlement in the county, in the fall of 1871. Others soon followed and left the Republican and Platte Valleys on either side, and came to Plum Creek, or to Muddy, Elk or Turkey Creeks in the southern part. The organic election was held, near the geographical center of the county, in May, 1873. The county was named Gosper in honor of John J. Gosper, then Secretary of State. Daviesville, in the southwest part of the county was the early town, and county seat. Plum Creek, Vaughan's and Judson's ranches secured postoffices and stores before 1880. These places have all disappeared from the modern map, and upon the advent of the Burlington line from Holdrege, Nebraska, to Sterling, Colorado, Smithfield and Elwood, the latter now the county seat of the county, sprang up. Gosper and Ceryl are now inland points. The activities of the county, agriculturally, are a combination of crop and stock raising. Much of the trade of the southern section of the county goes to the Furnas County towns of Holbrook, Arapahoe, Edison and Oxford, which are nearer to southern Gosper County farms than Elwood and Smithfield.

#### GRANT COUNTY

This is the westerly of the four "sandhill" counties bordering vast Cherry County on the south. It has an area of 726 square miles, but is almost entirely a ranch country, only valley lands in small tracts being cultivated to crops. Hyannis, the county seat, was laid out with the arrival of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, then B. & M. railroad line, through northwestern Nebraska in 1888. The first settler was John Dellinger, who took the flat east of the present town. A Mr. White had the flat west of town shortly after this. W. M. Alden, who became the first business man in the town had a pre-emption here in 1888 which he sold to the Lincoln Townsite Company. Mr. Alden opened his store in July, 1888. Whitman was another town which soon built up, after the settlements began. For a time, about 1887, this town was the terminus of the railroad, pending its further extension. Even for a long time after that, it maintained its reputation of being a "real frontier" town with all of the trimmings that the movies now love to portray as belonging to cowboys, western "woolly" villages and ranch life. Ashby is the main town in the county to the west of Hyannis, and there are flag stations at Sand Cut and Duluth. Benewa, Lucky and Elva are the only inland points.

Grant County is the center of the cattle-ranching industry of Central Nebraska. Hyannis ships from 500 to 600 loads of cattle a year, and Whitman practically equals or occasionally excels this mark, and approximately 1200 loads of cattle are shipped out of this small county annually, though much of it comes from the

ranches to the north in Cherry County. Hyannis has ranked as the wealthiest town per capita in the United States, as this little town of less than 400 people has two banks with deposits in excess of \$400,000 not considering the other banks in the county, but roughly estimating it, giving this town a bank deposit per capita of \$1000 per person. Even allowing for the people concerned in this estimation who live outside of the town, or even county, contrasted with the \$57 per capita for the United States, a per capita deposit of \$600 per person for Grant County shows the status of this community and county. Before the separate organization of the county, about 1888, it was a part of the Unorganized Territory, and of Big Sioux County.

## GREELEY COUNTY

Greeley County is situated in the sixth tier of counties west of the Missouri River, in the central part of the state, north to south, containing 571 square miles in area. Its original settlement dates back to 1871, when S. C. Scott, A. Shepard and J. G. Kellogg, came from Illinois and located on Shepard Creek, on the north side of the Loup. Settlements followed on Fish Creek in November, 1871, Cedar Creek in 1872, Spring Creek in 1874, where a postoffice was established, but the first postoffice was established at Lamartine, on the Loup, in 1873, with Mr. A. Fish in charge. The county was organized on October 8, 1872, and the county seat located at an election in November, 1874, as at Scotia. The county was named after Horace Greeley. An Irish settlement was established near the center of the county in 1877, a town laid out, platted and named O'Connor, in honor of Bishop O'Connor, who was a member of the Catholic Colonization Association that fathered the colony. The Irish Catholic Association selected another site in the northeastern corner of the county, on the Cedar, and Spalding was opened up about 1881, when the first store was located. Forty years ago before any railroad had come into the county, the towns and postoffices were Scotia, O'Connor and Spalding, with Lamartine, Summit, Chase, Ellsworth, Floss, Leo Valley. When the Union Pacific branch from Grand Island to Ord was built, it touched at Scotia Junction, and land was given to the railroad on condition that it would run a sideline over to the town of Scotia and run all of its trains into Scotia, and all passenger and regular freight trains make that side-trip of a mile away from the direct line through the corner of the county. The Burlington built a branch in 1887 through the county, from Aurora, on to Ord and Burwell, and on this line sprang up the towns of Wolbach, Brayton, Greeley Center, which later became the county seat of the county and the largest town in the county, and Horace. A branch line of eighteen miles built about the same time, runs from Greeley Center through Belfast and Horace to Ericson, just across the line into Wheeler County. O'Connor and Parnell remain as the inland settlements of the county. This county has developed into a thriving and prosperous county, with a showing of freight shipments, bank deposits, and such criterions that hold it up even with its neighboring Loup Valley counties.

## HALL COUNTY

Upon the 4th of July, 1857, the little colony of thirty-five brave pioneers, from Davenport, Iowa, arrived at Great (or Grand) Island in the Platte, and about two

and half miles below the site of the present city of Grand Island, and on the Platte banks founded the only white colony in the state, then west of Columbus, except the military reservations to the west, at Fort Kearney. This colony comprised five Americans, R. C. Barnard a surveyor, and his brother Lorens Barnard of Washington, D. C., and Joshua Smith, David P. Morgan and William Seymour, of Davenport, and the following German-Americans, mainly from Holstein, Germany, originally; William Stolley, Fred Hedde, Christian Menke, William A. Hagge, and Henry Joehneh, the leading spirits among the band; Kai Ewoldt, Anna Stehr, Henry Schoel and wife, Fred Doll and wife; George Shultz, Fred Vatje, Johann Hamann, Detlef Sass, Peter Stuhr, Hans Wrage, Nicholas and Cornelius Thodel, Henry Schaaf, Matthias Gries, Fred Landmann, Herman Vasold, Theo. Nagel, Christian Andersen, wife and child of four years. The first settlement built up some business places, fortified itself well, and withstood the Indian scares of 1864 without leaving or losing any lives, though Indians committed other depredations in this county, narrated more fully in the Indian section of this review. When the railroad came through in 1866, the present town of Grand Island was laid out, and business activities moved over. Here the county seat was formally established, though the county had been organized and functioning in its local government in a rather disjointed manner since 1858. The settlement in the west part of the county, at Wood River, moved over to the railroad in 1868, from that site two and half miles west of the present town where a depot and James Jackson's store were located, moved to the present location in 1874. Alda started soon after the railroad went through, being on the Union Pacific between Grand Island and Wood River. Doniphan started on the St. Joe and Grand Island route in 1879. Cairo was located in 1886 when the Grand Island & Wyoming Railroad, now the Burlington line, went through the northwestern part of the county. Former inland points in the county were Martinville, Orchard, Cameron, Berwick, Spencer, Rundlett, and Runelsburgh. Now Cameron is practically the only inland center remaining. The industrial progress of Grand Island has been noted elsewhere, and that bespeaks the commercial growth of the county.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY

Hamilton County is the first county east of Hall County and lies on the south side of the Platte River. Its area is 538 square miles, ten square miles in excess of that of Hall. The first permanent settlements were made in 1866 by Jarvie Chafee and George Hicks. The famous Deep-Well ranch, thirteen miles west of the first ranch in the county, that of David Millspaw, established in 1864, followed the Millspaw ranch in 1862. These were famous stopping places along the "Old Mormon Trail" until permanent settlements came. The county was organized in 1870, by proclamation of Governor Butler, and its name had been given by legislative enactment. Orville City was located on the West Blue, surveyed and recorded in 1870 and selected at the election of 1871 as the county seat, which honor was wrested from it in 1876 by the town of Aurora, which had been established in 1872. Hamilton was established on the prairie in 1874. Other early settlements, at inland points, of course, were at Farmer's Valley, Mirimichi, Williamsport, Lerton, Shiloh, Stockham, Buckeye, Cedar Valley, Otis, Avon.



Leonard, Bunker Hill, Alvin, St. Joe, and Penn. The Burlington road first built in from York, Seward and Lincoln and turned north from Aurora to Central City, and then in 1884, extended onward to Grand Island and Northwest. Hampton was platted in 1879, as the railroad came through to Aurora, by Joshua Cox. The other railroad towns in Hamilton County now are, Marquette to the north of Aurora, Murphy and Phillips to the west, Giltner to the southwest and Stockham in the southeastern corner of the county.

#### HARLAN COUNTY

This county is located on the middle, southern border of the state. As late as in the summer of 1869, Buck's surveying party were attacked in this particular territory and slain by Indians. The original settlers of this county, about forty in number, arrived in what is now Harlan County, but was then part of Lincoln County in August, 1870. Among these men were J. W. Foster, F. A. Bieyon, Gen. Victor Vifquain, John Olson, Frank Hofnagle, V. Toepfner, S. Watton, Henry Melchert, N. Peterson, G. Hanson, J. B. Mitchell, Lewis Lorson, Geo. F. Jonas, Joseph and Lewis Hubner, and Andrew Rubin. Lots were cast for the selection of claims, and while not the first in order of choice, Vifquain and a few others slyly selected the old townsite of Napoleon, near Orleans. Vifquain, failing in the successful projection of the first "paper" town in Harlan County, returned to the eastern part of the state, and Judge William Gaslin later secured proprietorship of this townsite. In December, 1871, when Judge Gaslin returned to his homestead, from Omaha, he brought with him Warren M. Fletcher, who homesteaded the future site of Orleans. D. N. Smith, the noted townsite locator for the Burlington decided to locate a town in this vicinity and this site was chosen, and the town got started by 1872. The townsite of Alma was chosen in 1871 by Mark Coad, N. P. Cook and others, and named "Aima" after a daughter of Mr. Cook. The first store was erected in 1872. After an election in July, 1871 for purpose of organizing the county, Alma was chosen as county seat. Another town, Republican City, was laid out in 1871. Melrose was really the first town in the county, having been planned in 1870 and secured a store early in 1871, but it never successfully flourished, after losing the county seat fight, first to Republican City, which in turn lost to Alma, and Orleans supplanting Melrose in a commercial way. Early inland points in the county were Graft, Bainbridge, Scandanavia, Grand View, Spring Grove, Garber and Pleasant Ridge. Spring Hill and Watson were formerly railroad stations. Stamford and Republican Junction have grown up in more modern times. A branch now runs from Orleans up to Holdrege, upon which Carter, Oxford Junction and Mascot are located. Another branch from Alma up to Minden has Huntley, Everson and Ragan.

#### HAYES COUNTY

Hayes County is one county removed from the west, being east of Chase, and one county removed from the southern line of the state, being north of Hitchcock. It was given legislative organization in an Act of 1877 and named for the new President, Rutherford B. Hayes, but formed no actual county government for some years later, during which time it was for judicial and revenue purposes

attached to Frontier County. The first postoffice, antedating any actual towns, were Carrico, Estell, McNaughton, and Thornburg. The only railroad facilities the county now has, more than forty years later, in 1920, is the Imperial branch of the Burlington cutting across the southwest corner through the town of Hamlet. Palisade in Hitchcock County and Wauneta in Chase County are each barely across from the Hayes County line and influence Hayes County trade considerably. Hayes Center, the county seat, is an inland town, started in the '80s. Other inland points in the county are, Robert, Lucile, Rain, Strickland, Marengo and Thornburg.

#### HITCHCOCK COUNTY

This county is in the southwestern corner of the state just east of Dundy, and itself on the Kansas border. It was organized in 1873, by proclamation of Governor Furnas, and named in honor of Ex-United States Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock, father of present United States Senator, Gilbert M. Hitchcock. It contains 724 square miles in area, two more than Hayes, its neighbor to the north. It was first settled by ranchmen in 1869, but it was in 1873 that the first permanent settlers arrived, when G. C. Gessleman took a claim near the mouth of Blackwood Creek. A dozen or so other settlers came in May of that year. Nineteen votes were polled at the first election, on August 30, 1873, and Culbertson was chosen as county seat. The townsite of Culbertson was selected in 1873, and surveyed in 1875 by D. N. Smith. In the fall of 1873 took place in this county and near Culbertson the memorable battle in which the Sioux so decisively and destructively defeated the Pawnee. Following Culbertson, Stratton on the Burlington line and Palisade, as an inland town sprang up. When the branch went from Culbertson to Imperial, Palisade became a railroad station and later Beverly moved up to the railroad. But the greatest blow to Culbertson, was the location of Trenton, near the center of the county, on the Burlington line and its capture of the county seat.

#### HOLT COUNTY

Holt County is on the northern edge of the state, with the Niobrara River as its northern border, and immediately west of Knox and Antelope counties. It is the fourth largest county in the state in area, only excelled by Cherry, Custer and Lincoln, and has an area of 2,393 square miles, after losing Boyd County from its north section. The first settler in the county is reputed to have been Wm. H. Inman, who erected a house on the banks of the Elkhorn in 1872. In 1873 a good sprinkling of settlers came in, and an attempt for organization was made, and upon a showing of facts a proclamation secured from Governor Furnas, but in 1876, the permanent organization of the county was proclaimed by Governor Garber, and the first election held on August 26, 1876. On May 12, 1874, Gen. John O'Neill, in whose honor the town was named, with a colony of his countrymen arrived. In this party were Neil Brennan, Patrick S. Hughes, Timothy O'Connor, Henry Curry, Thomas Conolly, Michael H. McGrath, Thomas N. J. Hynes, Michael Dempsey, Thomas Kelly, Robert Alworth, Ralph Sullivan, Patrick Brennan, Thomas Cain, Henry Carey and Patrick McKarney. Others came soon, and in 1875, the general brought his second colony. The townsite of O'Neill, of 160 acres, was laid out and platted in May, 1874, and another eighty acres platted in 1875 by General

O'Neill. Thirteen men, two women and five children lived one season in a little sod house erected, and facetiously called the "Grand Central Hotel." In the first skirmish for the county seat, Paddock won. This settlement, on the Niobrara, was started by Mr. Wm. T. Berry, in 1874. Its name was at first Troy, but changed to honor United States Senator A. S. Paddock. Atkinson, twenty miles from O'Neill was started in 1875. Upon resubmission in 1879, O'Neill won the county seat. When the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, now the Northwestern system, was built through in 1879 and 1880, towns sprang up along its line. The early railroad stations were, Ewing, Inman, O'Neill, Emmet, Atkinson, and Stuart, all thriving now, forty years later. Since then, Stafford appeared on the railroad near where old Hart was. Chambers, an inland town in the south part of the county, while a long distance from a railroad, is considered one of the greatest hay-producing and shipping points in the country, and were it on a railroad would produce a wonderful traffic. In 1920, under the recent Federal Transportation Act of 1920, an effort is being made to secure an extension of the Greeley-Ericson branch of the Burlington to Chambers. Some inland towns or trading or postal points of forty years ago are still actively on the map of Holt County. Among these are Deloit, Little, Swan Lake, or Swan, but the majority are no longer active. Many of those which seem to have passed from the scene were Cache Creek, Lambert, Brewer, Apple Creek, Mineola, Hainesville, Turner, Blackbird, Clifton Grove, Greeley, Saratoga, Cleveland, Menla, Laura, Grand Rapids. But Holt County, even now in 1920 has many inland points, among which are Tonic, Bliss, Amelia, Martha, Harold, Inez, Middlebranch, Tonawanda, Slocum, Agee, Staro, Dorsey, Scottville, Redbird, Meek, Leonie, Joy, Ray, Phenix, Badger, Dustin, Celia, Catalpa, Scottville and Paddock still located near the Niobrara. Page and Emporia sprang up as stations on the Burlington-Sioux City-O'Neill branch as it comes into the eastern part of the county.

#### HOOKER COUNTY

This county is one of the sandhill counties bordering on the south edge of Cherry County. Before the advent of the Burlington line to Wyoming and Billings, Montana, it was a part of the great Unorganized Territory, or Big Sioux County. Its organization finally took place about 1889. Forty-five years ago there were no settlements in this county. It has only built up four stations along the Burlington line, its only railroad. The main town, as well as being county seat, is Mullen. This has developed into a thriving town, being the greatest shipping center along the Burlington between Hyannis and Broken Bow. The other towns on the railroad are Weir, Hecla, and Kelso. The inland points in the southern portion of the county, over toward the Dismal River, are Eclipse, Moore Dunwell, Donald and Summit.

#### HOWARD COUNTY

Howard County is situated in the fertile Loup Valley, first county north of Hall. It contains an area of 561 square miles. James N. Paul, who was then surveying, and for several years had been in company with Major Frank North, and who for sixteen years, from 1901 to 1917, was District Judge in the Central and Western Nebraska Eleventh Judicial District, discovered the site of St. Paul.

This was in 1870 when he made the observation that it was a good site for a town. In December, 1870, his brother, N. J. Paul and the Danish vice-consul, Mr. Moeller visited this valley, and started a party up there on January 9, 1871. The point selected was the junction of the North and South Loup rivers, and near this point, the town of St. Paul, named after the Paul family, sprang up. An Act of the Legislature in 1871 formed the establishment of Howard and Boone counties. The first homestead claim in the county was taken by J. E. Cady on March 11, 1871. In May, 1871, the county seat was located at the proposed site of St. Paul. There had been a Danish settlement made near Oak Creek, and in the fall of 1871, C. O. Schlytern bought several sections of land from the Union Pacific Railroad and made preparations to start the town of Dannebrog, and the town was really laid out in 1873. A postoffice was started that year at Warsaw. St. Libory is a small station and town that built up on the Union Pacific road midway between St. Paul and Grand Island. Other points in the county before the railroad extended north from St. Paul were Loup Fork and Kelso in the southwest corner; Wola, Dannevirke and Cotesfield in the northwest corner; Fairdale, Glasgow in the northeast and Gage Valley in the east central. When the Union Pacific extended its line to North Loup and then to Ord, Cotesfield became a railroad station, and Elba sprang up. The branches built by the Burlington and Union Pacific from St. Paul to Loup City gave railroad facilities to Dannebrog, Nysted, Kenyon Spur and Boelus, the latter a town which had become noted for the power plant projected there on the Loup River, which furnishes electric power for many towns, and to the north to Warsaw and Farwell. The line from Palmer to Greeley touches Cushing, a town in the northeast corner of the county.

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County was mapped out by the Territorial Legislature, January 26, 1856, under the name of Jones County. At the same time, the adjoining county on the west, now Thayer County, received the name of Jefferson. Jefferson made its formal organization in 1864 with its first election at Big Sandy. February 18, 1867, "an Act to enlarge Jefferson County" passed the Legislature which united Jones to Jefferson. This gave the county an acreage of 706,560 which the Legislature of 1871 considered too large and it decreed division. The former Jones County in the divorcement retained the name of Jefferson, and incidentally the county records, while the former Jefferson assumed the name of Nebraska's statesman, who was both United States Senator and Governor, Thayer. From 1857 to 1864 Jefferson had been attached to Gage County for judicial and revenue purposes. The Otoe Indian Reservation for awhile cut off twenty-four square miles from the southeast corner, but that was about the first reservation land sold. The county as finally defined contains 578 square miles. Its original settlement dates back to 1854 when Jack Nye settled in this county, for a residence that proved brief, as did those attempted in 1855-6. Settlements from then until 1860 were spasmodic and some of them short-lived. In 1864 when the county began its actual organization, there were only thirty-five settlers established therein. Fairbury, the county seat, was laid out in 1869 and its establishment more fully treated in the town section of this work. Steele City was laid out in 1873 by Mr. D. M. Baker and Robert Crinklow and named in honor of D. M. Steele, president of

the St. Joe & Western Railway. Endicott, at the crossing of the Burlington and St. Joe lines, was laid out in 1881. The advent of Reynolds was the fall of the railroadless Rose Creek which had been established in 1863. In 1881 when the Burlington line passed about a mile from it, the new town of Reynolds sprang up. Diller, on the B. & M., was laid out in 1881 on the Otoe Reservation lands, and named for one of the earliest settlers in the county, H. H. Diller. Meridian was commenced in 1865 but was irretrievably injured in 1872 by the St. Joe & Western passing two miles from it. Plymouth was started before the railroad arrived. Rock Creek, Georgetown, Bower, Jefferson, Little Sandy and East Meridian were towns forty years ago, but without railroads. Now, the St. Joe and Grand Island, successor to the Old St. Joe & Western has Steele City, Endicott, Fairbury, K. C. & O. Junction and Powel. The Rock Island main line from Chicago to Denver passing through Fairbury also touches Plymouth, Jansen, and Thompson. The B. & M. into Fairbury also touches Helvey and Daykin. A C. B. & Q. branch across the southern edge of the county has as stations Reynolds, Kesterson, Endicott, Shea and Diller. Bower is left without a railroad.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

This county located directly west of Nemaha, the only county between it and the Missouri River and north of Pawnee, the only county between it and the Kansas line. It was named in honor of Gen. R. M. Johnson, of the United States Army, and was created by an Act of the first Territorial Legislature, March 2, 1855, and formally organized in the fall of 1856. The first permanent settlers, James Riggles and Isaac Irwin, both natives of Indiana, settled three miles southeast of Tecumseh, early in the spring of 1856. They were soon followed by a goodly list of brave pioneers. The county seat was located at Tecumseh, February 13, 1857. The town of Tecumseh, in the central part of the county, was first located and surveyed in 1856, and christened "Frances" after the wife of Gen. R. M. Johnson, but later changed to Tecumseh, the name of the famous Indian warrior, who is supposed to have been killed in battle by General Johnson. Twelve miles northwest of Tecumseh, the town of Sterling was laid out and platted in 1870 after the survey of the Atchison & Nebraska railroad. Elk Creek, on the same line, was surveyed in 1873. Smartville was another early station on this line. Helena, an early town in the county, laid out in 1867, was left deserted in a few years after the railroad missed it by six miles. Inland points in the county forty years ago were Crab Orchard and Vesta, which the railroad, C. B. & Q. line, reached in time and are still flourishing. This line later brought Graf into existence. A line of the Missouri Pacific cutting across the northeast corner of the county caused the town of Cook to come to life. Spring Creek, and Latrobe were formerly thriving postoffices.

## KEARNEY COUNTY

Kearney County is one county removed from the Kansas line, with Franklin to the south, and the Platte River to the north side. It has an area of 516 square miles. It can date its active history back farther than any other central or western Nebraska County, starting with the establishment of Old Fort Kearney, within its borders, when that post was transferred from the site of future Nebraska

City to the troublesome scenes of the Platte River banks. A fort on the Nebraska section of the Overland trail was considered necessary, and thus Kearney County antedates its neighbors by a good margin. This fort has an interesting history. After examining sites near Aurora, and Lone Tree, later Central City, in Merriek County, and selecting the site the first fort was built on in this county, and having it flooded, another site was chosen and the post, at first called Fort Childs, in honor of Captain Childs, the commanding and locating officer. His successor, in February, 1849, was Major Rupp. Succeeding commanders were Colonel Chittenden, by which time the fort was called Fort Kearney "Oregon Trail" and by 1854 as "Fort Kearney, Nebraska Territory"; Phil Kearny, for whom it took its final name, and then General Harney commanded. Then came Major Morris, Colonel May, Captain McGowan, Colonel Bachus, Colonel Miles, then Colonel Alexander, Captain Fisher, Colonel Wood, Colonel Livingstone, then Colonel Wood again, Colonel Carington, then the First Nebraska troops under Colonel Baumer, then Maj. T. J. Majors, later contingent congressman-elect. Then as subsequent commanders, Captain Ladd, General Wessels, Lieutenant Dibble, Major Dallas, General Gibbon, Lieutenant Foulk, Colonel Ransom, Major Sinclair, Captain Fenton, and Captain Pollack, who was in command of the post when it was abandoned in 1871. Central City, about two miles from the fort, was projected in 1858, by speculators from St. Joseph, Mo. About the same time, Doctor Ransom, Dr. C. A. Henry, John Young, J. E. Boyd, Loran Miller and others, from Omaha, laid out Kearney City. In 1860 this place was designated as county seat. It so flourished that at one early election it cast 300 votes. Valley City was another early town in this county, but it did not last, as neither did Jacksonville. Centoria was another dream city of this county, missed by the railroad and disappeared, and Mirage proved true to its name. Eaton, Osco and Fredericksburg did not survive all these years. Keene, there forty years or so ago, was reached by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy in time, so it is still flourishing. Heartwell has built up on this same line, that incidentally runs through Minden. Lowell, on the Hastings-Kearney branch of the Burlington, was laid out in 1872, and has been a famous town in central Nebraska. It is another of the children of D. X. Smith's locating and promoting abilities. Its United States land office was removed to Bloomington, and in 1874 it started a decline almost as rapid as its sensational rise. Its final blow was struck in 1878 when Minden was projected, and this town soon took the county seat, and has made an excellent little city. Newark was settled in 1878, is first station west of Lowell and near the old fort. It is still a good town. Minden is on the Burlington main line, from Hastings to Holdrege, and so is Axtell, another good town, built up after Minden started. Another later town is Wilcox in the very southwest corner of the county.

#### KEITH COUNTY

Keith County lies in the western part of the state, just west of Lincoln County, and east of Deuel County. It has an area of 1,068 square miles. The first permanent settlements accompanied the building of the Union Pacific main line through the county in 1867. It had a prolific Indian history during that period and on into the early '70s. It was organized in 1873. Its county seat, Ogallala, for a long time the only town in the county, became famous as a cattle center. This

point became the headquarters for an immense cattle trade and vast herds from Texas were brought up here for pasture purposes and distribution to ranches. Alkali, Roscoe and Brule are railroad stations that developed along about the '70s. Paxton, Korty and Plano later developed along the Union Pacific line. When the Union Pacific built its branch up to Scottsbluff country a group of Keith County towns sprang up, including Sarben, Nevens, Keystone, Martin, Lemoyne, Belmar and Ruthton. Those towns do not depend on Keith County alone for trading support, but govern much of McPherson and Arthur county trade to the north. A few inland settlements along the north edge of the county on the very southern edge of the "sandhills" are Spear, on the Lincoln County line, Orin, Glenrose, Triangle, Bertha, and Rice.

#### KEYA PAHA COUNTY

This county lies along the Niobrara River, on the northern boundary of the state. It has an area of 775 square miles, and lies north of Brown and Rock counties. It is an inland county, separated by the Niobrara River from Brown and Rock counties, and without railroad facilities. It was taken off from Brown County in 1884, right after the organization of Brown County. Its county seat is Springview, and a few other postoffices and small trading centers have developed, including Norden, Marleank, Enterprise, Carns, Pinecamp, Simpson, Mills, Brooksburg and Jamison. Its earlier history is merged into that of Brown County, the predecessor of Sioux, and as a part of the great unorganized territory.

#### KIMBALL COUNTY

The separate history of Kimball County as a county begins perhaps with its organization, following its separation from the mother county, Cheyenne, after the election of November 6, 1888. Antelopeville, which was the original name of the town of Kimball, flourished soon after the Union Pacific Railroad went through, in the late '60s. Adams and Bushnell came in early. Jacinto, Dix, Owasco, Kimball, Oliver, Bushnell and Smeed are now the stations along the Union Pacific line through this county. Troy, Beacon, Hodges, Bethel, Gifford, and Dye are inland points.

This is the very southwest corner county, in the Panhandle section of the state. Pinebluffs, Wyoming, is just across the state-county line. In the early history of Kimball County, John T. Clarkson purchased practically all of the lands from the Union Pacific Railroad on the south side, and Bay State Live Stock Co., the land on the north. In the middle '80s, settlers began to come in and on the second wave of settlement of the county, the agricultural period set in. By 1888, when the county was separated Antelopeville revived, its name was changed to Kimball, in honor of an officer of the Union Pacific, and it has steadily developed into as substantial a town of its size as can be found anywhere.

#### KNOX COUNTY

This county is on the northern border of the state, the fourth county from the east end, and first county east of Holt, and has an area of 1,114 square miles. It was organized by the Territorial Legislature in 1857, under the name of L'Eau-qui-

Court, the French name for Nebraska River. In 1867 its name was changed to Emmett, and in 1873 to Knox.

June 7, 1856, Dr. B. Y. Shelley and R. R. Cowan came to the present site of Niobrara and located a town. A town company, called the L'Eau-qui-Court Company, erected some houses and built a fort for the protection of the settlers. Indian annoyances and depredations were very frequent and troublesome during the late '50s. The first company failed, and in 1860, the Niobrara Company took the helm. Three other settlements were formed in this county very early. Frankfort settled in 1856 by S. Loeber, and the town laid out in 1857. Breckenridge, later the Santee Agency, was located in 1857 and the Running Water settlement was laid out in 1958. Later the Santee Indians broke up this settlement, and in 1870 Pishelville was started by a Chicago colony in this vicinity. Immigration in substantial numbers did not come to this county until after 1869 or 1870. Indian depredations again became so troublesome in 1871 that help was sent from Fort Randall on the Missouri River to protect the settlers. The Santee Indian reservation of 115,200 was placed in the northern part of this county, bordering on the Missouri River.

In the early '70s a new crop of towns started up in this county. Creighton was promoted in 1871, first by the "Bruce Colony," organized in Omaha. The first house and first store were erected by J. A. Bruce, an officer of this company. Samuel D. Brooks located the first claim where Bazile Mills sprang up shortly after, but the town was laid out in 1878. The postoffice at Millersboro was established in 1874. In the early '80s only Creighton and Bazile Mills were railroad towns, and the other towns named were inland points. Verdigris Bridge was a postoffice located on the creek of that name, about 1879, though settlement had been made there three years before; Welsh postoffice came from a settlement made in 1870; Kenma was established as a postoffice in 1875; Knoxville was established as a postoffice June 20, 1879, twenty-four miles southwest of Niobrara; Sparta postoffice was opened in 1880, about twelve miles south of Niobrara; Armstrong, twelve miles from Niobrara and three miles from that river was settled by Bohemians in 1871, and the postoffice established July 1, 1880, named after an early settler of that vicinity, J. L. Armstrong, upon suggestion of E. K. Valentine. Venus postoffice was established August 9, 1880, in the southwest corner of the county; Walnut Grove in the western part of the county was established on December 1, 1875; Blyville, established in 1873 in the northeast part of the county, was named after George W. Bly, one of the old settlers of that vicinity. Plum Valley was settled in 1875 and established as a postoffice in 1878; located on Bazile Creek in the center part of the county; Reidsville, about six miles northwest of Creighton, was established as a postoffice in 1875; Dukeville, fourteen miles west of Niobrara on that river, was established as a postoffice in 1876; Verdigris Valley postoffice was established in 1876; Middle Branch in 1880. Other early postoffices established were Sweden, in 1882; Anawan in 1882; and Herrick, Secret Grove, Millerboro, and Plum Valley. The extension of the Northwestern line to Winner, S. D., allowed other Knox County towns to gain railroad facilities, among these being Winnetoon, Verdigris, Niobrara and Verdel. In the southeastern corner the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha branch comes through Wausa and up to Bloomfield. Center, the county seat of the county now, is an inland town. Other inland towns are Venus, Mars, Millerboro, Bazile Mills, a mile or two off the track now;



Morrillville, Sparta, Addison, Weigand, Santee, Pishelville, Knox, Watson, Dukeville, Armstrong, Walnut, Herrick and Le Blanc.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

This is the second county in the state in general importance and population, ranking next to Douglas. It contains as its county seat, the capital city, Lincoln. It was organized in the fall of 1859, and previous to that had been attached for revenue, judicial and election purposes. It is located in the southeastern part of the state, with only Cass County between it and the Missouri River and only Gage between it and the Kansas line. The first permanent settlers are reputed to have been John D. Prey and his sons, John W. David, and William, with his wife and daughter, who, early in 1857, located at Olathe, on Salt Creek, about fifteen miles south of Lincoln. Several pioneers had penetrated the borders of this county in 1856, but no permanent settlement was made until the next year. The settlement of the county from 1859 to 1863 was very slow. The records of the elections of 1860-1-2 show no apparent increase in numbers. But after homesteading opened up in January, 1863, the settlement started with a rush. In the summer of 1863, Elder J. M. Young and others, representing a colony, selected a townsite which embraced the old town of Lancaster, then destitute of inhabitants and belonging to the Government. In the Indian scare of 1864, many settlers left. In 1865, Ezra Tuttle, lawyer, settled on Oak Creek and in 1866, S. B. Galey and S. B. Pound, settled at Lancaster. From the discovery of the salt basins, near Lincoln, in 1856 by government surveyors, they attracted much attention. Capt. W. T. Donovan, in 1857, representing the "Crescent Company," organized at Plattsmouth, pitched his tent there, but both Donovan and representatives of another company soon abandoned the enterprise. In 1862, John S. Gregory, Jr., laid siege to the basin, and a couple years later had some vats erected and enough salt made to supply the settlers and overland travel. A postoffice, called "Gregory's Basin," started there in 1863. Meanwhile J. Sterling Morton and Colonel Manners, one of the original discovering surveyors had been getting claims to this region. Soon after the state was organized under its state government, the governor leased the big basin for twenty years to A. C. Tichenor and J. T. Green, and they expended about twelve thousand dollars on it. Then Messrs. Morton and Manners got their claim into the courts by writ of ejection, and stopped the work. After years of litigation, the state made good its claim to the land, and her title was made perfect by a decision of the United States Supreme Court in 1875. From 1874 to 1884 Charles T. Bullock maintained the plant with very slight success. In 1885 Jesse T. Green attempted to revive the works, and various attempts were made after that. In 1916, the Traction Company at Lincoln leased the site for a pleasure resort, intending to build up a resort, Capital Beach, which had already been started there on a rather extensive scale. In recent years, considerable sand and gravel have been taken from this locality. The question of the state reserving saline deposits is by no means dead, and was submitted in the new constitution voted upon September 21, 1920. The establishment of Lincoln has been detailed in another chapter, on location of towns; John S. Green, the first settler at Waverly located there in 1869 and the town was started in 1871 with a postoffice, the first store being erected there in 1874. Firth was organized

as a village in 1879, named after Superintendent Firth of the Atchison & Nebraska Railroad, on which line it was located; Roca, "founded on a rock" as its name indicates, was started about that time, on the same railroad line and in its early days developed extensive quarrying interests. Hickman and Saltillo were started early on that same line. Havelock, the location of the largest Burlington shops on the western end of that great system, was started in 1891, though settlements had been made in that vicinity before then, by Charles A. Holderness, building the first house in the town. It was incorporated on May 6, 1893. The railroad station from Denton had been moved over, and the shops planned here by 1890. University Place started in 1889, synonymous with the location of Nebraska Wesleyan University there. Bethany and Cotner University started together in 1888. These last three towns are suburbs of the City of Lincoln now, all within six miles of the business section of that city. In 1889, the educational institution of the Seventh Day Adventists for a great many states was located at a site that developed into another suburb of Lincoln, so Union College and College View grew up together. This suburb also has a famous sanitarium built up by the same people, and an international branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Association under similar auspices. At the time the Midland Pacific Railroad came through, a town was laid out in 1871 and named Bennett, in honor of one of the officers of that road, John Bennett. Hickman, heretofore mentioned, was platted in 1872. Cheney was platted in 1874; and other towns which sprang up in this county were platted or started in the following years: Davey, 1886; Denton, 1871; Hallam, 1892; Holland, about 1886; Kramer, in March, 1888; Malcolm, October 13, 1877; Emerald; Martel, more recently Panama, located in the late '70s; Prairie Home, 1891; Princeton, July 8, 1886; Raymond, laid out by T. P. and Lioina E. Kennard, and plat filed on April 19, 1880; Saltillo, laid out in September, 1872; Sprague, plat recorded May 3, 1888; Agnew, 1889; Walton, later; Jamaica, in 1885; Woodlawn, plat filed March 29, 1878. Other stations in the county, some of which have no postoffice nor trading center of consequence left any longer, are Arbor, Berks, Burnham, Cobb, Hawthorne, Pella, Rokeby, Carleton, Hanlon. Older points that have practically disappeared from active participation in the county's affairs were: Buda, Olive Branch, Centerville, Loyal Hill, Crouse, Millville, Stevens postoffice, Newton, and Camp Creek. Enough important events in Lancaster County's history have been omitted in this short sketch to fill a separate volume, but as with Douglas, and some other important counties, many of these things will appear in the surveys of other subjects and phases of Nebraska's growth.

#### LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County is located in the western part of the state, practically 300 miles west of Omaha, and has an area of 2,536 square miles, being excelled in size only by Cherry and Custer. The first building in the county was probably erected by a Frenchman in 1844, but was abandoned in 1848, after four years' use as a trading ranch. In 1852, a man named Brady settled on the south side of the island bearing his name, and he is supposed to have been killed by Indians in the following year. In 1858, the first permanent settlement of the county was made at Cottonwood Springs, and a building erected that fall by Boyer & Robideay,

with I. P. Boyer in charge. Located at a spring, surrounded by big cottonwood trees, it received that name. In the same year, another trading ranch sprang up at O'Fallon's Bluff, on the south side of the river and some miles above the town of O'Fallons. Fort McPherson was established in 1863 by the Government at this Cottonwood Springs settlement. And it was placed there none too soon, for the Indian troubles of 1864 came right on. The county was first organized in November, 1860, with Cottonwood Springs as the county seat, and its first name "Shorter" was soon changed to Lincoln. During November, 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad was completed to North Platte, and that town was laid out by Gen. G. M. Dodge for the railroad company. It grew so rapidly, that it was made a military post and a garrison placed there. Machine shops and roundhouses were started there in 1867. In 1872, the Grand Duke Alexis came to North Platte and from there started out on an extensive buffalo hunt, and a very successful venture it was, with Buffalo Bill acting as guide. Other stations laid out along the Union Pacific in the first fifteen years after its arrival in 1867 were: Warren, at the east county line; Brady Island; Maxwell, at first McPherson Postoffice; just northwest of old Cottonwood Springs and north across the Platte River from the old Fort McPherson military reservation; Gannett, and Nichols, with, of course, North Platte and O'Fallons already mentioned. Gasline, Peckham and Fox Creek were about the only inland points forty years ago. Now the Burlington line through the southern part of the county has developed several stations, Ingham, Wellfleet, Somerset, Dickens, and Wallace. Additional stations built up along the Union Pacific in recent decades are Vroman, Hindrey, Keith, Pallas, Birdwood, Hershey, a very prosperous little town, an active candidate in substantial anticipation of a beet sugar factory within the next few years; Sutherland, Glenburne, and more modern inland points are Denmark, Arna, Kilmer, Myrtle, and Willard.

#### LOGAN COUNTY

Logan County took separate shape out of the great unorganized portion of the southern sandhills, attached for all commercial and practical purposes to Lincoln County for many years, along about 1885. Arnold, an inland village in the very western edge of Custer County was the only settlement in that region for many years. Not until 1911, did Logan County get a railroad, and then its most metropolitan town, Stapleton, promoted by the railroad, sprang up like a mushroom. But an inland town, about two miles away, and left a mile or mile and half off the railroad, Gandy, had developed many years before and captured the county seat upon the real organization of the county, and has so far held it against the strenuous efforts of Stapleton. Logan is the only other railroad station in the county, though Gandy now has a depot and busses meet the trains. Kirsch, Ford and Wagner are inland points. The county is typically a sandhill county. It has 573 square miles in area.

#### LOUP COUNTY

This county lies north of Custer County, and is in the "Sandhill" region, and a typically sandhill county. Loup County was settled in 1874. The first settlers to trail the Loup beyond the neighboring Garfield County settlements were Rodney P. Alger, John R. Goff, D. L. Bowen, B. J. Harvey, A. M. Gurnsey and Wm.

Burns and their families. In the spring of 1875 an Indian scare ensued, and a stockade was erected on the Alger farm and called "Fort Rodney." Fort Hartsuff over in Garfield County soon quieted the settlers through the fear it gave the Indians and the security it gave the settlers. In the winter of 1876-77, A. M. Gurnsey succeeded in getting a postoffice established which was named Kent. Grand Island, about one hundred miles to the south, was in those days the nearest railroad connection. The first general store was opened at Kent in 1880 and everything hauled from St. Paul, then the terminus of the Union Pacific. Up to this time, Loup City was part of the unorganized country, and in 1883 an organization was effected. Kent, in the very southeast corner of the county, lay too far east to land the county seat, but Taylor postoffice, Almeria and Clark's Point eagerly sought the plum. None of these places had been platted, but all figured they only needed to land the county seat and the town would spring up. Taylor won out by only two votes over Almeria, and this practically meant the finish of Kent. Taylor was staked off on a farm belonging to and adjoining the homestead of Joseph Rusho. Almeria, where G. W. Sthrol and Fred Hoellworth opened a store managed to hold her own, and is now a small settlement, with nothing much more than a store and garage. Kent dwindled away until it has practically disappeared. The county is not touched by any railroad line and all of the settlements are inland points. Cooleyton, Moulton, Ferguson, Calamus, and Gracie are other points in this county in recent years.

#### M'PHERSON COUNTY

This county like its neighbor to the east, Logan, is a typically sandhill county, and until its organization was provided for in 1887 was a part of a great unorganized sandhill country, but for all practical purposes, an annex to Lincoln County. It has an area of 863 square miles, and is an inland county. It lies between the Burlington line, that goes through Mullen, and the Union Pacific through Lincoln County, but the main source of supply is North Platte and other Lincoln County towns. Its county seat is a small town, Tryon, and other points in the county are Mayflower, Valyrang, Lilac, Omega, Ringgold, Nesbit, Brighton, and Ney. Arthur County was separated in 1913 and took away the west end of McPherson County. Its activities are ranching and some small crop raising in the valleys and extensive hay raising.

#### MADISON COUNTY

This county of 576 square miles in area, is the fourth county west of the Missouri River and third county south of northern boundary of the state. The first settlers, Herman Braasch and Frederick Wagner, from Jefferson County, Wisconsin, came on September 15, 1865. Upon their recommendation twenty-four families started from the Wisconsin home, and arrived at the present site of Norfolk in July, 1866. The county was organized in December, 1867, but the initial election was in January, 1868. The pioneer towns of the county, of which the establishment and growth of Norfolk, the metropolis of the county, has elsewhere been treated, in the years of their location or platting were, Norfolk, incorporated in 1881, but its postoffice was first established in 1869. Madison was settled in 1868, established as a postoffice in 1871, and made the county seat in 1875, and still holds that honor,

despite the hunger Norfolk has displayed for this plum. Battle Creek was established in 1884; Blakeley postoffice, in 1880; Warren postoffice is in the northwest part of the county; Emerick postoffice near the head of Battle Creek in the western part of the county was established in 1873; Newman Grove is in the extreme southwestern part of the county, and although settled sometime before, was established as a postoffice in 1874; Munson, Clarion, Kalamazoo, Gates, Blakeley, Dry Creek, and Deer Creek were other early points in this county.

The railroad stations in 1920 in this county are: Chicago & Northwestern branch from Norfolk north, Norfolk and Norfolk Junction; Union Pacific from Columbus to Norfolk; Madison, Enola, Warnerville and Norfolk; Newman Grove on a Northwestern branch; on the Northwestern main line, Norfolk, Norfolk Junction, Kent Siding, Battle Creek, Meadow Grove and Tilden. Emerick and Kalamazoo are the principal inland points left in this county.

#### MERRICK COUNTY

This county lies on the Platte River, the fifth tier west of the Missouri River, and has 463 square miles in area. A stage station was established at Lone Tree station by the Western Stage Company in 1858. The lone tree from which this name was derived was a large cottonwood tree, a lone patriarch on the prairie and a welcome sight to tourist, trapper or traveler, but in 1865 in a wind storm one day it fell to the ground. James Vieregg made the first settlement in the county on September 15, 1869. The first building in Chapman was erected by Reed and Leake in 1871. The postoffice was opened soon after the railroad passed through. Clarks, named in honor of S. H. H. Clark, superintendent of the Union Pacific, was platted in 1866. Silver Creek was also platted in 1866, and the first building after the section house built in 1870. In 1875, the name of Central City was prefixed to what had been known as Lone Tree station. Cherry Hill and Lockwood were other early railroad stations. Early inland points were Conrad, Prairie Creek, Farmersville, Bethel, Merrick, Burlingame, Mentzel, and Bryant's Grove. Paddock, Thumel and Havens are more modern stations on the Union Pacific main line. Archer and the thriving town of Palmer are on the Burlington branch north from Central City to St. Paul and Greeley, Palmer being the junction point at which this branch forks into two others. Sunrise is an inland point on northern edge of the county.

#### MORRILL COUNTY

This county with some 1,417 square miles in area, was cut off from Cheyenne County in 1908. Its earlier history is mainly a part of the big mother county's story. It was named for Charles H. Morrill, who had contributed so much to the support of agricultural growth of this state. The main town for many years and county seat, Bridgeport, started in 1899, when the Burlington line from Alliance to Sidney and Denver went through. It rapidly developed into a town of importance. The town of Bayard first flourished on the old location, settled by W. P. Devault, who laid it out with E. M. Stearns of Loup City and a neighbor, Wm. Peters. A small community grew up, even though it was fifty miles from the nearest railroad. In 1898, Gering, Bayard and Oshkosh were the only places claiming the distinction of being towns in the whole North Platte Valley. When the Alliance-

Guernsey branch, turning westward at Northport, came up the valley in 1900, the town was moved bodily over to a new location on the railroad line. The incorporation of the new town was had in November, 1900. The county was formed separately in 1909, after the authorizing election in 1908. Other towns, stations and postoffices which have sprung up in this county are, on the Union Pacific line, Kuhn, Finley, Broadwater, Kelly, Northport, and on the Burlington-Guernsey branch from Bridgeport west; Atkins, Yockey, and of course, Bayard, heretofore mentioned. Chimney Rock is the only station on the Union Pacific branch west from Bridgeport to Haig. On the Burlington line north and south through the county, are Bonner, Angora, Vance, Alden, Simla. Inland points in this county are Redington in the southwest corner; Collyer and Silverhorn in the southeast corner; Eastwood and Hickory in the east part, Clemano, Lightner, Lynn, and Goodstreak in the north part.

#### NANCE COUNTY

Nance County is in the central part of the state, the fifth county west of the Missouri River. Its first settlement was in 1857 by a band of Mormons, of some one hundred families, and they established Genoa. In 1862, the Government surveyed the territory comprising this county and confirmed it in treaty to the Pawnee Indians for a reservation. In 1875, the Pawnees were removed to Indian Territory, these lands were appraised and sold, and the county opened for settlement in earnest. The organization of the county and its first election took place in 1879. The foundation, platting and incorporation of its town occurred. Randall Fuller brought his herds into the county before the sale of the reserve lands, and recorded the plat for Fullerton in 1879, and it was designated by Governor Nance as the temporary county seat. Fullerton has been a town so fortunate as to secure one of the most beautiful locations in the state. Genoa was maintained as a postoffice during the reservation days, and after the reservation was abandoned rapidly built up as a town, and one of the principal Indian schools of the country is located at this place. Neoma, Tekousha, Red Wing, Westgood were inland points that rapidly appeared after the reservation left. Railroad towns in the county now are Genoa, Kent, Merchiston, Fullerton, and Belgrade.

#### NEMAHA COUNTY

This county, as Forney County, was one of the original eight counties. In the chapter on the order of organization of the towns, the establishment of early towns in the county, Brownville, Nemaha City, Peru, St. Derooin and Hillsdale was discussed. The modern county seat of this county is Auburn. In fact, Auburn is a sort of "twin city." North Auburn was platted in 1868; and South Auburn was laid out in 1881, first named Calvert in honor of T. E. Calvert, of the railroad corporation, to whom it really owed its foundation. The dates of establishment, or platting of towns in this county, were: Brownville, 1854; Nemaha City, 1854; St. Derooin, 1853; Carson, 1882; London, incorporated 1858; Peru, 1857; Brock, which since its first settlement in 1854 has had the various names of Dayton, Howard, Clinton, Podunk and Brock, the last since 1882. Aspinwall, first settled by Louis Neal, a half breed in 1853; and postoffice established in 1860; Johnson, started in 1869; Clifton where settlement was made in 1864; Febing, 1856; Bedford,

platted in 1882; Glen Rock, surveyed in 1857; St. Frederick in 1858; Hillsdale, in 1866; San Francisco, soon after 1854 but long since abandoned. Grant, Locust Grade, and Bratton were other early points. The towns now thriving in this county, as railroad stations and good trading centers are: Aspinwall, Nemaha, Brownville, Wood Siding, Peru, on the Burlington; Howe, Auburn, Auburn Junction, Glen Rock and Brock on the Missouri Pacific; Bracken, South Auburn, Quarry, Rohrs, Johnson, on the east and west line of the Missouri Pacific through the county, branching off at Nemaha. Eden, St. Deroin, and London are inland points, and North Auburn and Julian are on the B. & M. line from Auburn to Nebraska City.

#### NUCKOLLS COUNTY

Nuckolls is situated in the southern tier of counties, sixth to the west from the Missouri River, and has an area of 579 square miles. Settlements were attempted in this county in 1858, about the time Jefferson and Thayer first were reached. The Mormons went through in 1858 and blazed a trail through the county. In 1859 the Pony Express started over this road and it became a section of the famous Overland Trail. After the war and the Indian troubles of the late '60s, settlement began in 1870 to come to this county in a permanent manner. Superior, the largest town in the county and an important railroad center, was surveyed in 1875, but village organization was not perfected until 1879. Nelson, on land first owned by C. N. Wheeler and named for him, surveyed in 1872, was chosen in 1873 as the county seat. The county was given legal status by legislative action in 1871. Hardy was laid out in 1880. Elkton, Henrietta, Spring Valley, Beachamville, Ox Bow, Oak, Nora and St. Stephen were early postoffice or trading points in this county.

Now the stations on the B. & M. east and west through the county are Hardy, Mill Spur, Superior Junction, Superior, and Bostwick. On the Northwestern line from Seward into Superior, they are Oak, Nora and Cadams; on the line from Edgar to Superior through the county are Angus, Nelson, Smyrna, to Superior; on the Missouri Pacific from the north to Superior are, Lawrence, Mount Clare, Abdal. On cross lines east and west are Rusklin and Sedan.

#### OTOE COUNTY

Otoe County is located on the Missouri River, in southeastern part of the state with two counties yet to the south, and has an area of 606 square miles. The first settlement and the establishment of the old Fort Kearney, and the beginnings of Nebraska City, Syracuse in 1869 and 1870; and some of the other early towns in this county have been touched upon heretofore. Dunbar, first started and known as Wilson for about ten years, succeeded the old Wilson ranch stage station. Unadilla was laid out theretofore, but nothing done in the way of building until 1872; Wyoming was laid out and started in 1855. Other early towns were laid out, platted or started in the following years: Camp Creek, 1857; Talmage, laid off in 1881, and named in honor of a distinguished railroad official; Solon, in 1873; Hendricks, Minersville, Barney, Delaware, Edgan, Ela, Nursery

Hill, Paisley, Summitt, Talbott, most of which were places in name only, Northville and Burr Oak. Dover and Barney developed later.

Railroad towns in the county are now (1920), on the Missouri Pacific in this county: Talmage, Burr and Douglas; Paul and Nebraska City; Lorton, Dunbar and Berlin; this road running both north and south, and east and west in this county; as does the Burlington lines with the towns of Barney, Minersville, Nebraska City, Wyoming; Etherton, Dunbar, Turlington, Unadilla and Palmyra. This county has a rich fund of important history that cannot be touched upon in this short and inadequate sketch, but many of these points of interest will appear in the survey of the early development of other phases of Nebraska history.

#### PAWNEE COUNTY

This county is the first neighbor to the west of Richardson, the southeast corner county in the state. It has an area of 431 square miles. Its first settlement and its first towns have been elsewhere treated. Its organization in 1856 so closely followed the proclamation of the first eight counties, that it became one of the first ten counties established in the state. Cincinnati was started in 1857. Pawnee City was chosen as county seat, and laid out in 1857; in 1861 Table Rock received a postoffice, its settlement having been made in 1855 and its actual beginnings lay about 1857. Burchard was not founded until 1881. Other early towns and postoffices were Mission Creek, Steinauer, West Branch, New Home, Tip's Branch, Wolf Creek. On the Rock Island lines through this county, the towns now are Lewiston, Mayberry, Steinauer, Pawnee City and Dubois; on the Burlington, Table Rock, Pawnee City, Violet, Burchard, Armour, and on another line of road, Bookwalter, Tate; and Appleton on another branch.

#### PERKINS COUNTY

This county is in the western edge of Nebraska, and is the northernmost of the three counties that border onto the eastern Colorado state line. It has an area of 886 square miles. Its early history conforms to that of Keith County, from which it was set off shortly after the legislative authorization in 1887. It lies south of the Platte River, which flows through the southern edge of Keith County. Up until the time of its separation it had practically no settlement to speak of, and since then has developed several towns along the line of the Burlington Railroad which traverses the county east to west. These towns are Elsie, Madrid, Grant, the county seat, Brandon and Venango. Pearl and Phebe are about the only inland points.

#### PHELPS COUNTY

This county is well situated, on the high table-lands and upland prairies on the divide between the Platte River, which forms its northern boundary, and the Republican, which flows through its southern neighbor, Harlan County. Its organization was undertaken in 1873, and the county seat for the first few years located at Williamsburg, up near the Platte River in the northern edge of the county. In 1879 this was moved to Phelps Center. Other early towns in the



county that developed into at least the postoffice or trading center stage in its first ten years of separate life were, Rick Falls, Sacramento, Axelson, Hopeville, Osear, Industry, Integrity, Highland, and Westmark. With the advent of the railroads, practically a new set of communities took the stage of operations in this county. The county seat of the county now is Holdrege, not only the leading town in this county, but an important railroad center and one of the most enterprising towns in the state of Nebraska. Funk, Loomis and Bertrand are other Burlington towns, with Sacramento and Atlanta also on this road. Williamsburg, Westmark, Holeomb and Haydon remain as inland points in this county.

#### PIERCE COUNTY

Pierce County is one tier south of the northern counties of the state. It has an area of 577 square miles. It was legislatively established in 1859, and actually organized in 1870, with the county seat laid out on specified land, that soon became the site of the town of Pierce. Its first settlement was made in 1866, by a portion of the German colony from Wisconsin, that had settled on the North Fork of the Elkhorn, a little above the present Norfolk, Madison County. Settlements started around Plainview in 1871 and the postoffice was established in April, 1872, as Roseville, in honor of Charles Rose, its first postmaster, but the name was changed in 1874 to Plainview. Settlement was made in 1872, but the postoffice of Colbergen started in 1880. Another early point in this county was Hadar, which with Pierce and Plainview were the stations on the Sioux City and Pacific line then. Upon a Burlington line, running east and west through the northern part of the county, later sprang up McLean, Osmond and Breslau, and this line gave Plainview a second railroad. Colbergen is still an inland point.

#### PLATTE COUNTY

Platte County lies on the north side of the Platte River and is the fourth county west of the Missouri River. Its early settlement by a hardy, courageous colony in 1856 and the establishment of Columbus and other early towns has heretofore been covered briefly. Its first organization was its separation from Dodge in 1855; Monroe County was created by the Legislature in August, 1857, and elections of officers held in 1858-9, but a petition extensively signed by the residents led the Legislature to consolidate Monroe and Platte counties, so Monroe was short-lived. Jackson, called Duncan, was started in 1871. The early towns along the line from Columbus to Norfolk were Platte Center, Humphrey, with Tarnov a later station, which are in 1920 very thriving towns; Lost Creek, Monroe and Westgood were early railroad stations also. A Northwestern line across the north side of the county supplies railroad facilities to Creston, gives Humphrey a second line; and cares for Cornica and Lindsay. Other early inland points were St. Mary, Nebo, Grant Prairie, Postville, Metz, Okay, Farrall, and Palestine Valley. Oconee has replaced Lost Creek at the point where the Norfolk branch leaves the Union Pacific main line, a few miles west of Columbus. Inland points in the county now are Boheet, Oldenbush, Neboville, Woodburn, Rosenburg, Looking Glass, Postville, and St. Bernard.

## POLK COUNTY

Polk County is on the south bank of the Platte River, directly south of Platte County. While created in 1856, it was not organized until 1870. Its first permanent settlement was in Hackberry precinct in 1867. The early settlers came to the site of Osceola in 1869, it was chosen as the county seat in 1870 and its present location, the geographical center of the county was selected and made a permanent site in October, 1871. Stromsburg was surveyed and laid out in 1872. Pleasant Home, Wayland, Cyclone, Redville, Thornton, Bellville and Conklin were early inland points, and Arcade, first station east of Osceola on the railroad. At this point, Shelly has built into a good town in later years. When the Union Pacific extended from Stromsburg on to Central City, the towns of Durant and Polk sprang up. The county has an area of 430 square miles, and is an especially prosperous and thrifty county.

## RED WILLOW COUNTY

Red Willow County of 720 square miles, is on the southern line of the state, with the Republican River traversing its entire length and Red Willow Creek joining about the center of the county. Its settlement began in 1871, and in November of that year a company was formed, with Royal Buck as president and managing spirit to locate a town in this region, on the Republican, and a townsite selected and named Red Willow. In 1873 the county was organized and given the same name. A town named Billingsville was started but did not really materialize. In May, 1873, the town of Indianola was laid out, by the Republican Valley Land Association, near Coon Creek. When it came to the location of a county seat the two settlements, one on Coon Creek and the older one on Red Willow Creek joined in a bitter contest. On election day, the noted locator, D. N. Smith, offered a hundred lots in Indianola for a court house there, and that town won first blood on the election decision, but a contest ensued, with Indianola the early winner. Settlements came fast in the late '70s, and by 1880 the B. & M. Railroad had reached Indianola. In May, 1882, McCook was laid out by the Burlington people, of Lincoln Townsite Company, and designated as a division point, and plans laid for construction of shops, etc. In later years, McCook won the county seat away from Indianola, and also became the leading town of that part of the state. Fairview and Willow Grove were other railroad stations in early years. Van Wyck, Danbury, Hamburg, Lebanon, Valley Grange, Tyrone, and Vaillon were early inland points in the southern part of the county. Bartley and Perley have built up along the Burlington in later years. Lebanon, Danbury and Marion are on another line of the Burlington crossing the southeast corner of the county, and going into Kansas.

## RICHARDSON COUNTY

This is the southeast corner county of the state, and has an area of 545 square miles. Much of its early settlement and location of its first towns has heretofore been covered. It was one of the eight original counties, and its settlement predated the territorial government. Salem, Archer, Falls City, Rulo and Humboldt were heretofore discussed. Stella was laid out on land donated by Mr. J. T.

Clark, in 1881. Saint Stephen, Yankton, Winnebago, Geneva were flourishing villages in very early days of the county and long since abandoned. Arago, Middleburg, Wells Mills, Miles Ranch, Long Branch, Flowerdale, Highland, Barada, and Williamsville were villages inland from a railroad, having a postoffice, store, etc., some forty years ago. Rulo, Preston, Salem, Dawson and Humboldt were on the Burlington line, and Falls City and Elmore on the Missouri Pacific forty years ago. Verdon and Stella built up early in the '80s along the Missouri Pacific. Verdon is a junction between that line and a Burlington line up the river to Nebraska City, and Shubert is north of Verdon on that line.

#### ROCK COUNTY

The early history of this county, which lies directly south of Keya Paha County, is embraced in that of Holt and Brown counties. It is a large county with 1,004 square miles of territory. It was formed as a county in 1888, and theretofore had not been very thickly settled. H. M. Uttley went up from Wisner to Long Pine with a steam saw and was the first settler there. Dennis Sullivan settled soon thereafter. A. N. Bassett settled on the creek three miles above. These settlements were probably a little west of the present Rock County line, but presage the opening of that locality. Bassett, the county seat, and Newport, which bears the reputation of being the largest small sized station in the country for hay shipments, were located and built up before the separate establishment of the county and soon after the railroad, Northwestern line, went through. Menla was the only point in the northern part of the county, forty years ago. Cuba, Mariaville, and Kirkwood are now in that part of the county, and inland points in the southern section of the county are Butka, Duff, Sybrant, Hammond, Seldon, Perch, Shebesta, and Thurman. This county is not given to very intensive cultivation, but is a great hay producing region.

#### SALINE COUNTY

While created in 1855, Saline County was organized in 1862. It lies directly west of the southern half of Lancaster County, and the Blue River flows through the eastern part of the county. It has an area of 573 square miles. The first permanent settlement was in 1858 when Gen. Victor Vifquain located near the Fork of the Blue. Early settlers following very closely were E. Frink, W. Remington, C. Haynes, T. Stevens, J. Biekle, Tobias Castor, Wm. Stanton and James Johnson. Swan City, at the junction of Swan Creek with Turkey Creek, was the early county seat, after the first election in 1862. Wilber, the permanent county seat, was laid out in 1872; Crete, the metropolis of the county, was laid out in 1870, and failed to capture the county seat, though fifty years later, in 1920, it hasn't given up hope entirely. DeWitt began in 1872; Dorchester was laid out in 1871; as was also Friendville, now known as Friend, in the northwestern corner of the county. After the removal of the county seat from Swan City, that town dwindled away. In fact, the necessity of a county seat in the early years was slight, as the pockets of the officials were their office vaults usually. Various postoffices established early in the county's career included, Western, 1872; Pleasant Hill, which was made the county seat in 1871 and held it until 1878 when Wilber took it as a result of an election in 1877 in which it defeated Crete. Albany, Atlanta, Blue

Island, Danville, Fairview, Girard, Repose, Goldrinsey, Honesdale, Varna, Hornesdale, LeGrand, Lucieville, Mandana, North Fork, Saxon, Riceville and Tabor. The railroad towns in the county are now; Tobias, Western and Swanton in the southern part; DeWitt, Shestak, and Crete in the eastern edge; and Dorchester and Friend in the northern part of the county. Plato and Pleasant Hill are the principal inland points.

#### SARPY COUNTY

This is the smallest county in size in the state, of 240 square miles, and the oldest county in the state in settlement. The story of Bellevue, reaching back to 1810, of the posts, trading centers and Indian locations there have been covered in chapters heretofore. The story of Peter A. Sarpy for whom the county was named was therein touched upon, as was the settlement of its first towns. Papillion, the county seat, started in 1869; La Platte on the B. & M., was laid out in 1870; Sarpy Center was surveyed in 1875; Springfield came to life in 1881; Fairview early in the '60s, Xenia postoffice, and Saling's Grove community, not exactly towns, also very early; and Forest City, Plattford, Nasby were early inland points, and Gilmore an early railroad station. In later years, Chalco, Deerfield, Portal, Gretna, Avery, Fort Crook station, Pappio, and Meadow have built up along the railroad lines honeycombing this small county.

#### SAUNDERS COUNTY

Saunders County, first called Calhoun, until the unpopularity of the Federal Revenue Collector of that name caused its change to the honor of the last territorial Governor and early U. S. Senator, Alvin Saunders. In 1865, it was attached to Cass County for revenue, judicial and election purposes, and in 1866, its own organization was formed. It is located directly north of Lancaster and west of Douglas counties, and is 756 square miles in area. Joseph Stambaugh, in 1856, was the first settler in the county. Its early towns were started, as follows:—Wahoo, only a village of a few houses when it was made the county seat in 1873; Ashland, the oldest town in the county, held the county seat until 1873, but has grown to be an important town; Valparaiso, settled ten years prior to that, was incorporated in 1880; Alvin (Mead), Weston, Clear Creek, Crowder were early railroad stations; and inland postoffices or trading points in the county, some forty years ago, were Ithaca, Rose Hill, Ceresco, Bradford, Milton, Swedeburgh, Headland, Isla, Colon, Esteina, Sand Creek, Platteville, Clayton, Cedar Bluffs, Benton, Cedar Hill, Willow Creek, Rescue, Newton, Pilsen, Troy and Chaslaw. Railroad towns in the county are now (1920) on the Northwestern, Ceresco, Swedeburg, Wahoo, Colon, Cedar Bluffs and Platte River on one line, and Morsebluff and Linwood on another. The Burlington line cares for Rescue, Prague, Malmö, Wahoo, Ithaca and Memphis. The Union Pacific feeds Yutan, Mead, Wahoo, Weston, Touhy, and Valparaiso.

#### SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY

Until the election of November 6, 1888, and the establishment thereafter separately of this county, its history is embraced in that of the great mother county, Chey-

enne. It is the western county in the state, of the North Platte River group. Even though so young, no county in the state approximates Scotts Bluff in its rapid gains in population, development of resources and material wealth. It is 723 square miles in area, the seat of the greatest irrigation activities in the state, and the wonder county of the state in the past decade. Twenty years ago, there was a broad prairie where now stands a city of some seven thousand inhabitants, Scottsbluff. This town did not start until the extension of the Guernsey branch of the Burlington, from Alliance and Bridgeport, and the foregoing sentence flashes the history of its rapid growth. Along this same line of railroad have built up a wonderful group of towns, which are not yet through growing by any means:—Minatare, Mitchell, Morrill and Henry, with Toohy, Covert, Snell and Bradley as smaller stations. Gering, which has been the county seat of the county since its organization and still holds that honor against the jealous and zealous desires of Scottsbluff, was the oldest town in the North Platte Valley, being a village of some proportions over twenty years ago. It was not until ten years ago that the railroad reached this town, when the Union Pacific branch came up the valley and Haig (ville), Melbeta, Brockhoff and McGrew also sprang up. Gering now has a beet sugar factory and is a prospering young city of over 2,500 inhabitants, a growth achieved mainly in the past ten years. With sugar factories at both Scottsbluff and Gering, and a factory building at Mitchell, and two proposed for Minatare, it is hard to foretell what another decade will show for this thriving county.

#### SEWARD COUNTY

Seward County is located in the Blue River Valley, just west of the northern part of Lancaster County, and has an area of 574 square miles. The first settlement in the county was made by Daniel Morgan and his three sons, who located a pre-emption claim in the fall of 1858. It was created by the Legislature in 1855, under the name of Greene, but the conduct of the Missouri Senator in the Civil war period brought that name into unpopularity and it was changed to that of the Union Secretary of State in 1862. The county accomplished its organization in 1865. The city of Seward, county seat of this county, was surveyed and platted in 1868; Milford started from a settlement made by J. L. Davison in 1864 and a postoffice established then. A dam and a flouring mill was built in 1866; Camden was started in 1864, and Beaver Crossing, Utica, Pleasant Dale, Tamora and Germantown were early stations on the Burlington line from Lincoln northwest, and Staplehurst and Ruby Center on a north and south line of this system. Wests Mill, Pittsburg, Marysville, Orton, and Oak Grove were very early inland points. Later railroad stations to come into a flourishing condition were Cordova, Grover, Goehner, Leahy, Bee and a few of the early inland points remain.

#### SHERIDAN COUNTY

Sheridan County, containing 2,469 square miles of territory, prior to its establishment in 1885, was a part of the great Unorganized Territory, and Big Sioux County. It lies immediately west of Cherry County on the northern border of the state. Since the Northwestern line to the Black Hills went through this county, several thriving towns sprang up; of which Rushville, the largest, is the

county seat; Gordon is a very enterprising town, Hay Springs and Clinton good stations. Along the line of the Burlington, traversing the southern edge of the county, is another line of railroad stations, Bingham, Ellsworth, Lakeside, Antioch and Birdsall. Since the discovery of potash within the last five years mainly in the lakes of southern Sheridan County, several of these towns, and most particularly Antioch and Lakeside, have jumped from small villages to little cities. And if this wonderful potash industry lives up to expectations in the next decade, a very bright future can be predicted for southern Sheridan County. Among the numerous inland points in this county are Hazleton, Long Lake, Jennings, Lulu, Hamilton, Spade, Strassberger, Schill, Kenomi, Hilton, Moomaw, Grayson, Hunter, Hinchley, and Peters between the two railroad lines, and Adaton, Dullaghan, Whiteclay, Billing, Albany, in the northern part of the county. The Sioux Indian, Pine Ridge, reservation near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, laps over into this county.

#### SIoux COUNTY

Sioux is the corner northwest county of the state, and has an area of 2,055 square miles. Prior to 1883, this county embraced all of that vast extent of country north of Cheyenne, and west of Holt. Though unorganized, and officially, for years, called the "Unorganized Territory" it went by the unofficial name of Sioux, long before it received that name officially. Camp Robinson Military Agency was located in the final territory of Sioux County proper, Camp Sheridan Military Reservation was in the territory finally assigned to Sheridan County. When the Northwestern Railroad line came through this county, stations were built up at Fort Robinson, serving the present Fort Robinson Military Reservation, Glen, Andrews, and Harrison, the county seat. The county has a large number of inland points, among which are, Malinda, Mud Springs, Kelley, Townsend, Empire, Curly, Canton, Ashbrook, Aldine, Dome, Dowling and Agate, south of the Niobrara River which traverses the county east and west. North of the river and railroad are Cross, Story, Montrose, and Umit, and between the river and railroad, Colville, while Orella, Joder and Mansfield are on a Burlington line to Edgemont that crosses the northeast corner of the county.

#### SHERMAN COUNTY

This county borders on the east of Custer County, and north of Buffalo, so is very near the center of the state. It has an area of 573 square miles. It was settled in 1872-3 by the impetus of efforts by a party of Grand Island men. It was organized by proclamation of Governor Furnas, January 13, 1873, and the first election in April, 1873, resulted in the selection of Loup City as county seat. Loup City started up in 1873, before it had any railroad facilities. Other towns that also started up while in the inland stage were, Rockville, Hayestown, Balsora, Bullton, Cedarville, Fitzalon, and Austin. When the branches of the Union Pacific and Burlington came over from St. Paul, they placed the following towns, as they sprang up or developed as railroad stations, Rockville, Austin and Loup City, and the Burlington branch continuing to Sargent, fed McAlpine; Schaupps and Ashton were on the branch from St. Paul, coming through Farwell in Howard County.

The Billings line of the Burlington cuts across the southwest corner of the county, and there are located Hazard and the very thriving town of Litchfield.

#### STANTON COUNTY

Stanton County is in the northeastern part of the state, so situated that two counties are east of it between the Missouri River and this county; and two to north before the northern boundary of the state is reached. It has an area of 431 square miles. Up until 1867, when it was named after Edwin M. Stanton, of Lincoln's cabinet, it was called Izard County, and contained one tier of townships now belonging to Cuming County. It had been created since 1861, but its first permanent settlements did not come until 1865, when a group of homesteads were located on Humbug Creek, near the present town of Stanton. Stanton was located as the county seat at the first election, in 1866. Nothing was done for some three years toward building a town, or establishing county buildings until Densmore & Kendall moved their store from Clinton, three miles east. The following year they secured the Pleasant Run postoffice, a half mile west, but they had desired the Clinton postoffice. Canton postoffice which became the town of Pilger, was the next permanent town in the county, laid out in 1880 by the Elkhorn Valley Land and Town Lot Company. Clinton, Kingsberry, Canton, just mentioned, Donap, Orion, Schwedt, Craig City, and Bega were the other early towns or postoffice points in the county. Pilger and Stanton are the only two railroad towns in the county in 1920. Haymow and Bega still survive as inland points.

#### THAYER COUNTY

Thayer County was created in 1856, designated as Jefferson. As noted in the account of the present Jefferson County, this name was lost, and the new name of Thayer taken, in 1871, when the 1867 consolidation of the old Jefferson (now Thayer) and Jones (now Jefferson) was undone. The first settlements were made in 1869, though the county, as a part of the famous Overland Trail, had been traversed considerably before then. The final organization of the county ensued in 1871. Hebron, the county seat, was located in June, 1868, but its real establishment occurred in 1869. Alexandria was located in 1871, and named for S. J. Alexander, afterwards Secretary of State; Hubbell was laid out in 1880 by the Lincoln Land Company, Carleton was laid out in the early '70s; Belvidere was platted in 1872 but really started in 1873; Davenport, a town named after Davenport, Iowa, was laid out in 1872. Chester was laid out by the Lincoln Land Company in July, 1880; Friedensan, about eight miles northwest of Hebron was a postoffice and Lutheran settlement started in the '70s; Harbine was started about 1882; Deshler, a very enterprising little town in the southwest part of the county was laid out in 1887. H. J. Struve was the first settler and F. J. Hendershot started the town. Brumby, in the north part of county started about twenty years ago. Suckler Mill, Dryden, Kiowa, Gazelle, Prairie Star were early inland points. Newer towns not heretofore mentioned, in this county, are Byron, Stoddart, Williams, and Gilead.

## THOMAS COUNTY

This is one of the smaller "sandhill" counties along the southern edge of big Cherry County. Its separate organization and permanent settlement accompanied the arrival of the Burlington railroad line in 1887. A division station was set at Seneca, and a town has grown up at this point, practically a railroad town. Virtually in the center, as between east and west borders, but to the northern part, has been built up the town of Thedford, the county seat. Norway to the west of Thedford, and Natick to the east, and Halsey on the Blaine county line, are the other railroad towns in the county. To the extreme southwest corner lies Summit and north lies Sunflower, inland points. The Thomas county towns receive much trade from southern Cherry County.

## THURSTON COUNTY

The early history of this county is entwined in the story of the proposed Blackbird County which became the Omaha Indian Reservation. As the railroad went through this territory, the towns of Baneroff, Athens, station at Middle Creek, and town of Emerson sprang up. Winnebago was an interior supply station. In 1889, this territory was again given individual recognition and formed into a county, of 387 square miles in area, named for Nebraska's Senator John M. Thurston. This county now contains the remaining Omaha Reservation, and the thriving towns of Rosalie, Walthill and Winnebago on the Burlington line; Pender, Thurston, and Emerson on the C., St. P., M. & O. Macy is an inland settlement in eastern edge, on Blackbird Creek.

## VALLEY COUNTY

This county is the second one north of Buffalo and has two counties yet to the north before reaching the northern boundary of the state. It is in the fertile Loup Valley, and has an area of 570 square miles. Its first actual settlement was in May, 1872, when a party of Danes from Wisconsin settled on the west side of the North Loup River, above two miles from the present town of Ord, on what is known as Dane Creek. Another colony had sent representatives to scout this country in 1871, and its first group, under the leadership of Rev. Oscar Babcock, arrived in 1872, a few days later than the Danish colony. This colony developed the North Loup settlement, and a postoffice was established at North Loup in 1872. The town of Ord was surveyed and platted in 1874, and named for Gen. E. O. C. Ord, then in command of the Department of the Platte. When the county was organized early in 1873, the county seat was located on the site of Ord, though the name was chosen later. The court house was built in 1876, the same year in which Fort Hartsuff, in the northern edge of the county was completed. Arcadia was started soon after this, in the western part of the county, and has developed into a very good town. Vinton, Mira Creek, Yale, Geranium, Sedlor, Ida, Garfield, Adair and Springdale were early postoffices or inland trading points. North Loup, Spelts, Olean, Ord, Elyria, and Arcadia are the railroad points now.



## WASHINGTON COUNTY

Very much of the early history of Washington County that belongs in this short sketch has been heretofore given, in the discussion of the establishment of the old Fort Calhoun (Fort Atkinson in 1819) and the town later; of Fontanelle, 1854; DeSoto, about 1855; Cuming City, 1854; and Blair, the final county seat in 1869. The county was one of the eight original counties that came in with the territorial government. Bell Creek was laid out in 1869 and Herman in 1870. Kennard was settled in 1856 by Nathaniel Brewster, who purchased the townsite, but the post-office was established in 1868; Hiland, formerly Mead station, was early, its name changed to Hiland in 1881, but the postoffice located there in 1882 under the name of Giles. Admah, in the northwest corner of the county was named after a Bible town of that name. Nero and Amherst were other early inland points. Arlington, Bowen, Hillside, Tyson and Coffman are later points to develop, and are all railroad stations.

## WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County lies in the northeastern corner, to the south of Cedar and Dixon, border counties. It has an area of 450 square miles. It was organized by proclamation of Governor Butler in 1870, about two years after its first permanent settlement. Mr. B. F. Whitten was the pioneer settler. LaPorte was laid out in May, 1874, and was the early county seat of the county. Wayne P. O. or Brookdale, which was laid out by the railroad townsite company in 1881, rapidly grew and soon became the county seat. LaPorte was left as an inland point, and Wayne, Donop, Northside, became railroad stations. The towns of Hoskins, Apex and Winside are now the railroad stations southwest of Wayne in this county, and Carroll and Sholes to the northwest. Altona and Melvin are inland points.

## WEBSTER COUNTY

Webster County is in the southern tier of counties, with six counties to each side of it in this tier. It has an area of 578 square miles. The first permanent settlement in the county was in the spring of 1870 by members of the Rankin Colony, they locating at Guide Rock. The same season, Silas Garber, later a governor of the state, pushed on up the Republican River to where Red Cloud now is, and projected a settlement at that point. The county was organized in 1873, and for some months the dugout of Silas Garber was used as a court house. Blue Hill was surveyed and platted in September, 1878, by A. B. Smith, the town surveyor, for the railroad company. Amboy started about 1876. Cowles was laid out in September, 1878, and named in honor of W. D. Cowles, who prior to his death had been general freight agent of the B. & M. Other points in this county some forty years ago were Inavale, on the Burlington line, Stockdale on the U. P., Eckley, Thomasville, Catherton, Wheatland, Wells, Stillwater, and Scott, inland points. Lester, Bladen and Rosemont are towns that sprang up after the railroad lines were well established in this county.

## WHEELER COUNTY

This territory was for years in the great "Unorganized Territory." Wheeler County was authorized by Legislative act and named in 1877, but it was on April 11, 1881, that its formal organization was accomplished. Its first organization was a territory forty-eight miles long, being the entire territory adjacent to the present county of Holt on the south, and twenty-four miles wide. From the west half of this, in 1884, Garfield County was taken. J. F. Cummins was elected as the first county clerk and for some time he kept the records at Cumminsville, on Beaver Creek, which might therefore be termed the first county seat. But this place was too far east to suit the settlers, so a new county seat was projected and a town laid out, near the middle of the county, on Cedar Creek, or as often designated "River." This new town, Cedar City, with its nineteen blocks to be built around a court house square, also proved to be a "bird of passage" and in 1884, Bartlett was made the county seat, and Cedar City passed entirely out of sight. Bartlett has succeeded in holding the county seat against the onslaughts of a new town, in the southwestern corner of the county, Ericson, that became the terminus of a branch on the Burlington from Greeley. Pibel, Cumminsville, Headquarters, Arden, Newboro, and Francis are inland points, and Deloit is barely across the Holt county line.

## YORK COUNTY

This county is 575 square miles in area, situated second county west of Lancaster and third tier from the south line of the state. Its first permanent settlement was made in 1865 by William Anderson and sons, upon the West Blue River. It had in 1863 some five stations along the Mormon trail, and in 1864 Mr. Lushbaugh had established what became known as the Jack Smith ranch. The first settlements were mainly along the valley of the West Blue. Settlements continued rapidly until by 1872 practically all of the government land was taken, and every part of the county had received a start toward permanent settlement. Prior to 1870 the county had been attached to Seward County for judicial, revenue and election purposes, though it received legislative establishment and a name in the Act of 1855. York was started in 1869, and was located as the county seat at the start. This has become one of the enterprising and beautiful small cities of the state. Bradshaw was started in 1879; McCool Junction, started in 1888; Henderson was incorporated in 1899; Benedict, in 1890; Lushton was surveyed and platted in 1887; Waco was laid out in 1877 when the Burlington came through; Arborville was laid out in 1874; and other early towns or postoffices in the county were, McFadden, Lisbon, Indian, Cana, Long Hope, Blue Valley, Westfield and Plainfield, railroad stations; the others being mainly inland points, and in the northern part of the county, were Staplehurst, Thayer, Arborville, Palo, and Creswell. Houston and Gresham have built up since the Northwestern came in from David City. Mapps, Knox and Charleston are railroad station points, and Arborville and Bluevale are the principal inland points in the county now.

The foregoing survey has only attempted to outline the first settlement, location, naming, area and organization of each county, attempting to give a chronological perspective of the establishment of its various towns, the waning of those that have disappeared or fallen behind, and closing with as complete a roster of

the present towns as could be secured. In attempting to name so many inland points in the various counties, many of which are hardly towns, but mere settlements with perhaps a school, church, store and garage, or some of those institutions, no doubt numerous inland communities just as worthy of record have been overlooked and missed, but their presence has not been intentionally slighted in any degree.

#### ORIGIN OF NEBRASKA NAMES

The name "Nebraska" first appeared in print about 1842, the year in which John C. Fremont made his explorations through this region, and in his report spoke of the "Nebraska River." This was the Otoe Indian name for the Platte, derived from the Otoe word, "Ne-brath-ka," meaning "Flat Water." Secretary of War William Wilkins, in his report of November 30, 1844, says "The Platte or Nebraska River being the central stream would very properly furnish a name to the (proposed) territory.

#### COUNTY NAMES

The origin of the names given to the ninety-three counties of Nebraska is very interesting. It is rather difficult to figure this out with perfect accuracy, for numerous counties derived their names from legislative enactment, with no registration made of the source from which the proposer derived the names selected, and other counties took their names from local sources, even when the name rather intimates being a memorial to some well known public servant, and in still others, the true origin still remains a matter of unsettled contention.

A dozen Nebraska counties received names which commemorate one of the Presidents of the United States; Washington (George Washington, President 1789-1797); Adams, for John Adams, 1797-1801; Jefferson, for Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809; Madison, for James Madison, 1809-1817; Polk, for James K. Polk, 1845-1849; Fillmore, for James Fillmore, 1850-1853; Pierce, bearing same name as Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857; Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865; Grant, for U. S. Grant, 1869-1877; Hayes, for Rutherford B. Hayes, 1877-1881; Garfield, for James A. Garfield, 1881; and Arthur, for Chester A. Arthur, 1881-1885. The county now Platte, once bore the name of Monroe, for President James Monroe, 1817-1825. It is often thought that Johnson County may have received its name from President Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869, but it more than likely received it from the memory of Gen. R. M. Johnson, for whose wife the county seat was first named and later changed to Tecumseh, for the famous Indian chief who is supposed to have been killed in battle by General Johnson.

Numerous other counties bear the names of statesmen who left their impress upon American history, even if they did not in some instances attain the coveted goal of the presidency. The names bestowed upon Franklin, Hamilton, Knox and Wayne counties bring to memory the names of Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and their two contemporaries of Revolutionary times. Boone County's name pays tribute to Daniel Boone of Kentucky; Cass, recalls to mind General Lewis Cass of Michigan; and the names of the great triumvirate of statesmen of the period between 1820 and 1850 were commemorated in this state, though one memorial fell by the wayside. Webster County recalls Daniel Webster; Clay County pays tribute to Henry Clay, and is a name tried twice, once upon a

county later divided between Gage and Lancaster, and finally upon the present Clay County. The county given the name of Calhoun later became Saunders. Quite fittingly did the name of Douglas befall the lot of the most populous county of the state, for to Stephen A. Douglas was much credit due for the establishment of statehood to Nebraska. Another senator, Augustus C. Dodge of Iowa, who introduced a statehood bill, was similarly honored. Three members of President Lincoln's cabinet, Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of State William H. Seward and Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton have had their names preserved to posterity by Nebraska counties. Vice-President Schuyler Colfax was similarly honored. Horace Greeley and James G. Blaine were two statesmen whose names are preserved in Nebraska's County Roll. Dixon and Harlan are two more counties that bear names, probably from other lesser statesmen.

A considerable group of generals of the Civil war period were likewise honored, no doubt largely because of the reverence for their careers carried by legislators who had seen service in their commands. In addition to General (President) Grant, such respect was paid to Generals William T. Sherman, Philip H. Sheridan, O. O. Howard, Hooker, Thomas, Logan, McPherson and the compiler is not sure of the name Wheeler. Custer County plainly bears the suggestion of Gen. George A. Custer; as does Kearney, the respect shown to Gen. Stephen W. Kearney, and Cherry was named for Lieutenant Cherry. The county of Holt commemorates the Indian period.

Reverting to the local statesmen of Nebraska's early political history, in numerous instances, similar tribute was paid to some governor, senator or state official. The following governors, territorial and state, were thus honored; Francis Burt; Mark W. Izard, by a county that afterwards lost this name; William A. Richardson; Black and Morton were passed, though Morton was so carried for a time; and finally Saunders, the last territorial governor, whose namesake took away the name Calhoun from that statesman's memory. Secretary and Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming received an honor that stayed. Secretary Paddock's county, which was to be cut out of Holt, did not hold that name. It has often been thought that Hall County was named in honor of Judge Augustus Hall, then chief justice at the time of its legislative organization, but local tradition attributes the name to a local party, business partner of an early sheriff of that county.

Beginning with David Butler, the first state governor, numerous successors in this office received this tribute. Of the next six governors, all were so honored except Silas Garber, namely Robert W. Furnas, Albinus Nance, James W. Dawes, John M. Thayer and James E. Boyd. The few counties organized during the administrations of the succeeding governors were named from other sources. Secretary of State John J. Gosper, 1873-1875, was the only minor state officer to be so honored, unless it might have been that the prestige of Attorney General Champion S. Chase, rather than Lincoln's cabinet officer of that name, influenced the naming of that county. Several United States senators have been thus honored in Nebraska. The honor accorded to John M. Thayer in naming such a county came rather during his days of prestige from the senatorship than his later regime as governor. Hitchcock County was named for United States Senator Phineas W. Hitchcock, father of Nebraska's present Senator, Gilbert M. Hitchcock. Saunders, of course, served as both governor and senator. Senator Thurston, from 1895-1901, had one of the later counties named in his honor. Keith County may have taken its

name from Judge Keith; Dundy took its name from United States Judge Elmer S. Dundy; Morrill County, from Charles H. Morrill, president of State Board of Agriculture for some years; Brown County bears a name attributable to a number of sources; Sarpy County bears honor to the pioneer of early days, long before territorial organization, Peter A. Sarpy; and a number of counties bear names, the source of which is not readily explainable; Dawson, Nuckolls, Merrick, Phelps. At least three counties were named for prominent railroad officials, Kimball, Deuel and Perkins; Gage was named for Rev. W. D. Gage, chaplain of the legislative session which enacted the county's existence. Lancaster and York were names bestowed by the Legislature of 1855, attributed by many to the towns and families of those names in English history.

This leaves a group of counties which bear names, the significance of which can be surmised from their very meaning; Antelope and Buffalo preserve the memory of two of the great family of animals found by the white man when he arrived in Nebraska; Platte, Loup and Nemaha coincide with the names of nearby rivers; Frontier, Valley, Banner, Garden, Rock and Saline bear witness to physical qualities of the region; Scotts Bluff and Box Butte are attributable to noted landmarks within their own borders; Cedar and Red Willow call to mind the names of Nebraska trees; and another group of counties bear mute tribute to Indian tribes that formerly traversed their areas; Cheyenne, Keya Paha, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Sioux, Ponca and Dakota. The greatest inconsistencies perhaps crept into naming Frontier to a county not on the frontier especially; Valley to a county, no more so appropriate than many others; Saline to a county whose neighbors have deposits of that product rather than itself.

Some names just as worthy as the fortunate one had to be passed by, names of statesmen just as worthy of honor as many who did receive the same. It would seem that Governors Izard, Black, James and Garber made just as creditable record as the other early state executives. Charles Sumner, whose name is not preserved in the state in county or town, gave early currency to, if not actual coining, the phrase that stands forth in Nebraska's motto; "Equality Before the Law."

## CHAPTER VI

### TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

FORMATIVE STEPS—AREA—OFFICERS—GOVERNOR CUMING'S ADMINISTRATION—GOVERNOR IZARD'S ADMINISTRATION—GOVERNOR RICHARDSON—GOVERNOR BLACK—GOVERNOR SAUNDERS—NEBRASKA'S PART IN THE CIVIL WAR—NINTH TO TWELFTH LEGISLATURES—EVOLUTION INTO STATEHOOD—CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1866—OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE TERRITORY.

*Formative Steps.* There are a vast number of details, historically important and very interesting, concerning the formation and growth of the territory of Nebraska, and its evolution into statehood, and its development into one of the banner states of this great Union, now composed of a sisterhood of forty-eight states. It will be possible in this restricted view to only grasp the structural points of this evolution, and this probably can be best accomplished through another chronological survey.

1844. This being the year of the first practically permanent settlements, is a good starting point. As the first projection of the old Fort Kearney and the Mormon arrivals at Florence took place in this year, they touched the eastern border of a vast region extending from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, known vaguely and indefinitely as the "Platte Country." It might as well be mentioned right here, that the dominant political issue of the next decade, intervening between this point and Nebraska's final erection as a territory was slavery. It was interjected not only into political affairs, but economic, business, social, church and civic activities as well as state affairs. The fierce struggle over the admission of Missouri had ended without an open disruption of the Union but had left its mark of contention so rapidly gaining a grip upon the affairs of the country that the very suggestion of farther territory to the west, available for territories or states, opened the matter for bitter struggle at once. In this year, 1844, two events forerunning the erection of the new territory occurred. November 30, the first official use of the name "Nebraska" was made by Secretary of War William Wilkins, who suggested the "Platte" or "Nebraska" river country as a good area for another state and December 17, Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, introduced his first Nebraska bill in the House of Representatives at Washington, an effort which came to naught in immediate results, but far reaching in its foundation effects.

1848. Stephen A. Douglas made another futile attempt, by his introduction of the second Nebraska bill.

1851. Another attempt to project a territory west of Iowa and Missouri, even failed to reach a vote, in the session of 1851-2.

1853. This year marks the beginning of the real and final efforts. Willard P. Hall of Missouri, offered a measure, on December 13, 1852, attempting to organize the Territory of "Platte," but from the Committee on Territories, William A.

Richardson, of Illinois, secured the reporting of a bill organizing the Territory of Nebraska, but despite the very warm opposition of the southern members, this bill went to the Senate accompanied by pro-slavery blasts of warning. Stephen A. Douglas got it out of the committee in the Senate, but too late to secure its adoption in that session. In the fall of 1853, a number of men assembled at Bellevue, and delegated Hadley D. Johnson, a prominent citizen of Council Bluffs, Iowa, to represent them in this matter. On December 14, 1853, Senator Augustus C. Dodge, of Iowa, introduced another Nebraska bill. Senator Douglas, on January 23, 1854, offered a bill so amending Senator Dodge's offering that it left little but the title, and proposing instead of one territory, Nebraska, set forth two, the other to be called "Kansas." This bill, with some further amendments, was passed on March 4, in the Senate and in the House in May, and signed by President Pierce on May 30, 1854.

*Area.* The territory as then formed contained 351,558 square miles, extending from the 40th parallel of north latitude to the British Possessions, and from the Missouri River to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. On February 28, 1861, 16,035 square miles were set off to the Territory of Colorado; and on March 2d, 228,907 square miles to Dakota. A triangular tract of 15,378 square miles received later from Washington and Utah territories was included in a 45,999 square miles area taken from Nebraska and given to Idaho, March 3, 1863, which later step virtually reduced Nebraska to its present limits.

*Officers.* The first corps of territorial officers appointed by President Pierce were as follows:—governor, Francis Burt of Carolina; his secretary, Thomas B. Cuming, of Iowa; chief justice of the courts, Fenner Ferguson, of Michigan; associate justices James Bradley of Indiana, and Edward R. Hardin, of Georgia; marshal, Mark W. Izard, of Arkansas, and attorney, Experience Estabrook, of Wisconsin. Governor Burt reached the Territory in ill-health, on the 6th day of October, 1854, and proceeded to Bellevue, where he was the guest of Rev. Wm. J. Hamilton, at the old Mission House. His illness proved of a fatal character, and he died on October 18, 1854. Thus ended most tragically and shortly the first gubernatorial administration in Nebraska, before it could shape any official record.

From this point, it will be necessary to review the territorial government, giving brief outline of the important events of each administration, and a brief record of the important accomplishments of each territorial legislature.

1854. GOVERNOR CUMING. The first act of Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming was the official proclamation of the death of Governor Burt. Chief Justice Ferguson of the Courts had arrived in the state on October 11, and Justice Bradley on October 14, but Justice Hardin did not arrive until December 1st. Marshal Izard arrived on the 20th of October, the day after Governor Burt's funeral. Governor Cuming's administration, as acting governor, lasted until February, 1855. Important events transpiring in these four months were:—*Capital location.* For the seat of government, a fierce competition ensued between Bellevue, Florence, Omaha, Nebraska City and Plattsmouth, and Acting Governor Cuming decided upon Omaha, although his official place of residence remained at Bellevue, until January, 1855. *First census.* An enumeration was ordered taken on October 24, 1854, which showed a total of 2,732 inhabitants. Considerable discrepancies were later shown to have developed in this task and it bears no material worth as a reliable historical record. The territory was divided into the eight original counties; Burt, Washington, Douglas,

Dodge, Cass, Pierce, Forney and Richardson. The first general election was held on December 12, 1854, and on December 20, 1854, a proclamation was issued calling on the First Territorial Legislature to meet at Omaha, on January 16, 1855.

*First Legislature.* Convened in a two-story brick building at Omaha, at 10 o'clock A. M., January 16, 1855. Temporary officers were Hiram P. Bennett, of Pierce County, president pro tem. The Committee on Credentials were Joseph L. Sharp, Richardson, who became president of the council, J. C. Mitchell of Washington County and Luke Nuckolls, of Cass County. In the Representatives the temporary organization was John M. Latham, of Cass County, speaker, and J. W. Paddock, as chief clerk pro tem., and later permanently. The permanent speaker was A. J. Hanscom, of Douglas. The important part of the governor's message, after his allusions to the loss of Governor Burt, was that pertaining to the Pacific Railway. Local machinery of government was provided for and county officers created. The criminal code of Iowa, with some slight, necessary alterations, was adopted for the regulation of the new territory. Three institutions of learning were incorporated, Simpson University at Omaha, the Nebraska University at Omaha, and the Collegiate and Preparatory Institute at Nebraska City. The favorable report of the committee, of which M. H. Clark of Dodge County was chairman, upon the bill chartering the Platte Valley and Pacific Railroad Company was the far reaching act of this Legislature.

*Other Events of This Period.* Other events transpiring in the territory, prior to February, 1855, which were foundation stones in the various lines of activity of the commonwealth, were:—December 23, Acting-Governor Cuming called for two volunteer regiments for defense against the Indians; December 30th—a convention at Nebraska City adopted resolutions asking that General Bela Hughes of Missouri, be appointed governor and Dr. P. J. McMahon, of Iowa for secretary. January 26, 1855. The territorial capital was definitely located at Omaha.

**GOVERNOR IZARD'S ADMINISTRATION.** On February 20, 1855, Gov. Mark W. Izard, delivered his inaugural address, as the second official governor of the territory, and he resigned on October 25, 1857. In his administration considerable progress was made. The postoffice at Bellevue was established in March, 1855, with Daniel E. Reed as postmaster. In the same month, the first session of district court was held at Bellevue. Several churches were organized that year, in Omaha, Brownville, and Nebraska City. In January, 1856, Mrs. Amelia Bloomer delivered an address on votes for women in Omaha in the Second Legislature's Hall. The boundary lines of many counties were fixed by the Legislature, in 1856. A road was surveyed and its construction began, from Omaha to Fort Kearney. The real and personal property was assessed and another census taken, which revealed the presence of 10,716 inhabitants. The foregoing facts mentioned, cover mainly the activities of the Second Territorial Legislature which convened at Omaha, on December 18, 1855. Hon. A. D. Jones, of Douglas, was an important figure in this session, and it was he who mainly handled the matter of designating names to the various counties provided for by this session. B. R. Folsom, president of Council and P. C. Sullivan, speaker of the House.

*Third Session of Legislature.* Convened at Omaha, January 5, 1857. L. L. Bowen, president of the Council, and O. F. Lake chief clerk; I. L. Gibbs was speaker of the House, and J. H. Brown chief clerk. In this session, the first attempt was made to remove the capital from Omaha. Governor Izard



promptly vetoed a bill proposing to establish it at a town to be named "Douglas." He also vetoed the most striking piece of legislation advanced by this session, the repeal of the criminal code, but they passed it over his veto and left the territory without any criminal laws.

*Fourth Legislature.* This session began on December 8, 1857. Hon. George L. Miller of Omaha was elected president of the Council, Washburn Safford, chief clerk, and of the House, Hon. J. H. Decker, of Otoe, was speaker and S. M. Curran, chief clerk. The memorable event of this session was the secession of a portion of its membership, who attempted to set up a separate assembly at Florence. This division resulted from further attempts to remove the capital from Omaha. This rupture blocked all further attempts to accomplish anything at this session, and it expired on January 16th, by limitation. For a second time Thomas B. Cuming had been acting governor, since the resignation of Governor Izard.

**GOVERNOR RICHARDSON.** Gov. William A. Richardson arrived on January 12th, 1858. His official career was short, as he resigned within a few months and left the territory upon December 5th, whereupon Sec. J. Sterling Morton became acting governor. In the period of sixteen months, from Governor Richardson's accession until Governor Black took office, political lines began to form themselves. The first political convention in the territory had taken place on January 8, 1858, in Omaha, as a democratic mass convention. The republicans followed suit on January 18th at Omaha. A special legislative session was convened on September 21, 1858.

*Fifth Legislative Session.* Bowen and Curran were president and chief clerk of the Council, and H. P. Bennet, was speaker and E. G. McNeely, chief clerk of the House. A committee consisting of Hons. R. W. Furnas, W. E. Moore and Geo. W. Doane, reported resolutions upon the death of Sec. Thomas B. Cuming, which had occurred on March 23, 1858. Representative S. G. Daily introduced a bill on November 1, to "abolish slavery in the Territory of Nebraska." It was referred to a special committee, consisting of S. G. Daily, James Stewart, John Taffe, D. P. Rankin, and William C. Fleming. Two reports, with the majority report being favorable, were returned, but the measure was finally laid upon the table.

**Gov. S. W. BLACK.** Gov. Samuel W. Black, arrived on May 2, 1859, and relieved Acting Gov. (Secretary) J. Sterling Morton of the reins of office. In the first months of his administration, events of interest that transpired were, among, of course, many others not detailed here:—The action in June, of advocates of annexation to Kansas who visited the Kansas constitutional convention. That body allowed them to be heard, but took no action toward extending the boundaries of that state; in August, the democratic convention at Plattsmouth, nominated the first democratic ticket, and the republicans followed with a similar convention nine days later, at Plattsmouth. From September 21-24, the first territorial agricultural and mechanical fair was held at Nebraska City. October 11, Chief Justice Fenner Ferguson died.

*Sixth Session of Legislature.* Convened at Omaha, December 5, 1859. Of the Council, E. A. Donelan, was president and S. M. Curran remained chief clerk; and in the House, Silas A. Strickland was speaker, and James W. Moore, chief clerk. In Governor Black's message he called attention to the fact that since 1854 the territory had expanded from eight counties, to twenty-three with representative there and thirty-five organized or their boundaries fixed by law. The fight over

slavery sprang forth as the main issue in this session. William H. Taylor introduced a bill to abolish slavery in Nebraska, citing that the census of 1854 had shown thirteen slaves living in Nebraska, and gave the names of men who held slaves at the time he was pushing his measure. George L. Miller argued that the measure was not of sufficient importance to warrant the agitation it created, that Nebraska was in no danger of becoming either a slave territory or state, and George W. Doane concurred in his views. Similar attempts appeared in the House, but in the end they were all voted down for the time being. Another notable feature of this session was the first active attempt to raise Nebraska to statehood. A bill was passed at this session, submitting the proposition to the people of the state, and at an election on March 5, 1860, it was rejected by a vote of 2,373 to 2,094.

*Seventh Legislature.* This session convened on December 3, 1860, with Governor Black still in office. W. H. Taylor was president, and E. P. Brewster, chief clerk of the Council, and in the House, H. W. DePuy was speaker and George L. Seybolt was chief clerk. During this session, slavery received its final quietus. John M. Thayer in the Council and Representative Mathias introduced bills, and when the House Bill was passed, then vetoed by the governor, it received passage over the veto. Governor Black was the last of the succession of democratic governors who had presided over the territory since 1854. He left the territory on May 2, 1861, and died on the field of battle in defense of the Union, in the second year of the war.

**GOVERNOR SAUNDERS.** Alvin Saunders, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, was appointed governor, by President Lincoln, and with him, in May, 1861, came Algeron S. Paddock, as secretary. Governor Saunders held the mantle of office until the actual installation of statehood in 1867, and during much of this time, Secretary Paddock was acting-governor at intervals. It was, of course, during Governor Saunders' administration that the period of the Civil war, and Nebraska's height of Indian depredations took place, and he had a busy administration. Also, another important event of his administration was the projection into a reality, the Pacific Railroad. In his message to the *Eighth Session of the Legislature*, which convened December 2, 1861, the governor said:

"A mere glance at the map of the country will convince every intelligent mind that the great Platte Valley, which passes through the heart and runs nearly the entire length of Nebraska, is to furnish the route for the great central railroad, which is to connect the Atlantic and Pacific States and Territories."

The apportionment of \$19,312 as Nebraska's share of the tax necessitated by the breaking out of the war was endorsed by the governor, and this session likewise passed resolutions renewing Nebraska's vows of allegiance to the federal government, branding secession and nullification as treason against the general government and stamping Nebraska's position in the great struggle over the preservation of the Union, beyond doubt.

*Nebraska's Part in the War.* With a population of less than 30,000, Nebraska sent 3,307 men to fight for the preservation of the Union. Under the proclamation of President Lincoln calling for three years' volunteers, one regiment was assigned to Nebraska. Governor Saunders immediately called for volunteers to fill Nebraska's contingent. The first company was formed June 3, 1861, and the regiment was filled within fifty days, by organization of the tenth company, July 22.

The officers who served this regiment were Colonels John M. Thayer (pro-

moted to brigadier general October 4, 1862) and Robt. R. Livingston of Plattsmouth. Besides Colonel Livingston, the lieutenant colonels were Hiram P. Downs, of Nebraska City; Wm. D. McCord, of Plattsmouth, and Wm. Baumer of Omaha. Besides McCord, Livingston and Baumer, who had been promoted, the Majors were Allen Blacker, of Nebraska City, Geo. Armstrong, Omaha, and Thos. J. Majors of Brownville. The regiment composed of Companies A to K, inclusive. This regiment embarked at Omaha for the field of action on July 30, 1861, and were stationed in Missouri, going into winter quarters at Georgetown. February 2, 1862, they left for Tennessee, and from Fort Henry went to Fort Donelson, where in that siege they participated in their first real engagement, with General Lew Wallace as their division commander. They participated at Corinth, and scouted in the southwestern states in 1862 and 1863, coming to St. Louis in fall, and participating in numerous memorable occasions in the western field during 1863 and 1864. They assisted in Indian excursions prior to being mustered out of service on July 1, 1866.

The Second Regiment, Nebraska Cavalry, was organized in the fall of 1862, as a nine months regiment, and served about one year. Its activities were mainly in Nebraska, and Dakota in the Indian skirmishes. Colonel Robert W. Furnas of Brownville was in command, with W. F. Sapp of Omaha, as lieutenant colonel and Majors George Armstrong of Omaha, John Taffe, of Omaha, and John W. Pearman, of Nebraska City. When this Second Regiment was mustered out of service, in September, 1863, Major George Armstrong was commissioned by Governor Saunders to raise an independent battalion cavalry from its veterans. This battalion, consisting mainly of Companies A, B, C and D, were mustered into service as the First Battalion, Nebraska Veteran Cavalry, and assigned to duty on the plains. In July, 1865, this battalion was consolidated with the First Regiment, Nebraska Veteran Cavalry, and mustered out of service a year later.

When, in August, 1861, a call was issued for two companies of cavalry to join the First Nebraska Regiment (Infantry) two Companies, "A" at Omaha under Capt. M. T. Patrick, and "B" at Omaha, under Capt. J. T. Croft, were formed. They did not join the First Nebraska, but with two other companies, one from Nebraska City recruited around there and from Page County, Iowa, under Capt. J. M. Young, and one recruited under Lieut. Wm. Curl of St. Louis, were merged into the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, under which name they went through the war, although also called the "Curtis Horse." They served their time in the Southwestern Army.

During the Indian outbreaks, centering around August, 1864, in addition to the handful of regulars available at the regular military posts, and the First Nebraska Veteran Volunteer Cavalry, and the many unofficial, hurried local organizations of settlers, along military plan, there were numerous companies of militia organized and called out by Governor Saunders. These included Companies A, B and C, First Regiment, Second Brigade, Company A, First Regiment, First Brigade, a detachment of thirteen men, artillery militia under Capt. Edward P. Childs; and Company "A," Pawnee Scouts, under Capt. Frank North, and a company of Omaha Indians, under Capt. Edwin R. Nash.

*Ninth Session of Legislature.* This session convened at Omaha, January 7, 1864. E. A. Allen was President and J. W. Hollingshead as Chief Clerk of the Council, and in the House, George B. Lake was Speaker and R. Streeter, Chief Clerk. Governor Saunders in his message referred to the prosperous condition of

the territory, and paid high tribute to the courage and high patriotism of the Nebraska Volunteers.

*Tenth Session of Legislature.* Convened at Omaha, January 5, 1865, and elected O. P. Mason, President and John S. Bowen, Chief Clerk of the Council, and in the House, S. M. Kirkpatrick was Speaker and John Taffe, Chief Clerk. Governor Saunders had desired only one term, but in February, 1865, joint resolutions were passed urging his re-appointment, and that of Secretary Paddock.

*The Eleventh Session* met at Omaha, January 4, 1866. O. P. Mason remained as President and W. E. Harvey was chosen as Chief Clerk of the Council. Jas. G. Megeath was speaker and George May, chief clerk of the House. This session authorized the people of the Territory to vote upon the question of statehood.

*The Twelfth and Last Territorial Legislature.* This session convened January 10, 1867, after the first provisional (state) Legislature had convened on the preceding July 4th. E. H. Rogers was President and O. B. Hewitt, Chief Clerk of this session's Council, and in the House, W. F. Chapin was speaker and J. S. Bowen remained as Chief Clerk. This was an uneventful, valedictory session, as statehood was now virtually an accomplished fact.

#### THE EVOLUTION INTO STATEHOOD

1862-3. During this session of Congress, a bill was introduced, authorizing the territories of Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada to take the preliminary steps toward admission into the Union as states. This measure did not reach final action during the life of that session.

1864. On April 19th, an act of Congress was approved by the President and became a law, enabling the people of Nebraska to form a State constitution and government. But the continuance of the war, the Indian trouble pending about that time, and concurrent conditions rendered immediate action upon this permission inexpedient.

1866. February 9, the action of the Territorial Legislature made local provision for carrying that law into effect.

June 2, an election was held to decide the question. The tabulation of this vote will serve to show the closeness of the question even then, and also the development of the state, illustrating what counties were then formed.

Counties	For	Against
Burt .....	222	42
Buffalo .....	1	41
Cedar .....	12	39
Cuming .....	31	41
Cass .....	233	480
Dixon .....	34	36
Dakota .....	106	32
Douglas .....	491	572
Dodge .....	96	45
Gage .....	96	61
Hall .....	2	29
Johnson .....	108	69

Counties	For	Against
Jones .....	32	13
Kearney .....	21	7
L'Eau-qui-Court (now Knox) no returns .....	..	..
Laneaster .....	95	23
Lincoln .....	30	20
Merrick .....	16	8
Nemaha .....	346	489
Otoe .....	432	870
Platte .....	123	55
Pawnee .....	233	31
Richardson .....	503	373
Sarpy .....	109	231
Seward .....	23	24
Saline .....	5	54
Washington .....	404	89
Soldiers' vote .....	134	34
	3938	3838

The closeness of this vote might be puzzling, viewed fifty or sixty years in the retrospective were not the explanation made that considerable politics was injected into this question. The republican party in President Johnson's administration was somewhat divided, and a coalition of the Johnson or liberal wing of that party, with the democrats, especially for patronage and like purposes, alarmed such of the republicans as those in Nebraska. The republicans of Nebraska desired the adoption of the constitution and to secure two senators and a representative to help sway the narrow margin at Washington; while the democrats worked almost as hard against the adoption of the statehood instrument as for their own ticket.

July 4, 1866. According to the provision of the new Constitution therefor, the first provisional (state) legislature met on this date, at Omaha. F. Weleh was President and C. E. Yost, Chief Clerk of the Council, and W. A. Pollock, Speaker, and J. H. Brown, Chief Clerk of the House. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement of this session was the election of two men to the U. S. Senate, both of whom had won their military spurs, Maj.-Gen. John M. Thayer, being elected "the senator from the North Platte" and Chaplain Thomas W. Tipton, "the senator from the South Platte" and the "state of Nebraska" being disregarded in the designations. Hon. T. M. Marquette had been elected as the first representative.

July 18, 1866. A bill was introduced into the National Congress to provide for the admission of Nebraska, and passed on July 28th, but owing to the near approach of the end of the session, the quiet pocketing of that bill by President Johnson was all that was needed to prevent its becoming a law at that time. Congress adjourned and left the embryo state out in the cold, with a set of state officials, legislature and everything elected ready to function; but its charter not issued yet.

December, 1866. When Congress convened, somewhat new conditions had taken place and the republicans, with their solidarity strengthened were not worrying so much about new accessions of numerical membership. While the Fifteenth amendment had not yet been adopted, the stalwart feeling in favor of a franchise

unlimited in the color line was rapidly growing. The conservative gentlemen who framed the new Nebraska constitution had inserted the word "white" in the franchising qualifications, and as this was a factor not provided for in the enabling act, opened the path for further obstacles. Then the representatives of the older states were now more interested in preserving their sectional and individual weight than granting accessions to the rapidly growing and menacing Northwest. But in January, 1867, a bill looking to the admission of Nebraska received the indorsement of Congress. But it was promptly vetoed by the President, on the ground it embraced the conditions referred to not covered in the enabling act; that the proceedings attending the formation of the constitution were different from those prescribed, and that the population of the territory did not justify its becoming a state. The bill, however, was passed over the President's veto, by a vote of 30 to 9 in the Senate and by a vote, the day following, in the House, of 120 to 44. But the provision was added that the act was not to take effect.

"Except upon the fundamental condition that within the State of Nebraska there shall be no denial of the elective franchise, or any other right, to any person by reason of race or color, except Indians not taxed; and upon the further fundamental condition that the Legislature of said State, by a solemn public act, shall declare the assent of said State to the said fundamental condition."

February 14, 1867. Territorial Governor Saunders, still the Chief Executive of Nebraska issued a proclamation calling together the newly elected state legislature to comply with the conditions above set forth.

February 20, 1867. Immediate action was taken upon this subject, and a bill was passed by the Senate, by a vote of seven to three, and by the House, twenty to six, and approved by the governor. The Legislature provided for the formal notification of the President of the United States of the acceptance of the conditions prescribed, and then adjourned.

March 1, 1867. President Andrew Johnson issued the proclamation declaring Nebraska a state. The next day, Hon. T. M. Marquette presented his credentials in the national House of Representatives and consummated the bond. The two senators, by waiting two days lengthened their terms a couple of years, but Marquette was tired of Washington, so he qualified, cast a few votes in two days and came home.

#### OFFICIAL ROSTER OF THE TERRITORY

*Governors.* Francis Burt, October 16, 1854; died October 18th. (Acting Gov. Thomas B. Cuming served in the following interim.) 2nd. Governor Mark W. Izard, Feb. 20, 1855; (Acting Gov. Thos. B. Cuming, served again after Governor Izard's resignation October 25, 1857). 3d. Wm. A. Richardson, January 12, 1858 (Secretary J. Sterling Morton, acting governor from December 5, 1858, to May 2, 1859). 4th. Samuel W. Black, May 2, 1859 (with Morton acting governor again in 1861, February to May). 5th. Alvin Saunders, May 15, 1861 (with Secretary A. S. Paddock, as acting governor for a portion of the time from 1861-1867).

*Secretaries.* Thomas B. Cuming, August 13, 1854; John B. Motley, acting March 23-July 12, 1858, until the arrival of J. Sterling Morton, who served from July 12, 1858, until May 6, 1861, and Algernon S. Paddock, May 6, 1861, until 1867.

*Auditors.* Chas. B. Smith, Mar. 16, 1855; Samuel S. Campbell, Aug. 3, 1857; Wm. E. Moore, June 1, 1858; Robert C. Jordan, August 2, 1858; Wm. E. Harvey, Oct. 8, 1861; John Gillespie, Oct. 10, 1865.

*Treasurer.* B. P. Rankin, Mar. 16, 1855; Wm. W. Wyman, Nov. 6, 1855; Augustus Kountze, Oct. 8, 1861.

*Librarians.* James S. Izard, Mar. 16, 1855; H. C. Anderson, Nov. 6, 1855; John H. Kellom, Aug. 3, 1857; Alonzo D. Luce, Nov. 7, 1859; Robt. S. Knox, — 1861.

*Judiciary.* Chief Justices were, Fenner Ferguson, October 12, 1854; Augustus Hall, March 15, 1858; William Pitt Kellogg, May 27, 1861; William Kellogg, May 8, 1865; William A. Little, who died in office, 1866.

*Associate Justices.* James Bradley, Oct. 25, 1854; Edward R. Harden, Dec. 4, 1854; Samuel W. Black, 1857; Eleazer Wakely, April 22, 1857; Joseph Miller, April 9, 1859; Wm. E. Lockwood, May 16, 1861; Joseph E. Streeter, Nov. 18, 1861; Elmer S. Dundy, June 22, 1863.

*Clerks* were H. C. Anderson, 1856; Charles S. Salisbury, 1858; E. B. Chandler, 1859; John H. Kellom, 1861; William Kellogg, Jr., 1865.

*District Attorneys* were S. A. Strickland, June 11, 1855; Jonathan H. Smith, June 9, 1855; D. S. McGary, May 10, 1855; John M. Latham, Jacob Safford, William Kline, Nov. 6, 1855; Jas. G. Chapman, William McLennan, George W. Doane, Aug. 3, 1857, U. C. Johnson, October 11, 1859.

*Delegates to Congress.* Napoleon B. Gidding, December 12, 1854; Bird B. Chapman, November 6, 1855, who defeated Hiram P. Bennett by a vote of 380 to 292; Fenner Ferguson, August 3, 1857, who had received 1,642 votes to Chapman, 1,559; Benj. P. Rankin, 1,241, John M. Thayer, 1,171 and 21 scattering in a total of 5,634. Experience Estabrook, October 11, 1859, whose vote of 3,100 defeated Samuel G. Daily with 2,800; J. Sterling Morton, in 1860, with 2,957 votes, defeated Samuel G. Daily, who had 2,943; Samuel G. Daily, in election of 1862, with 2,331 votes this time won out over John F. Kinney, who polled 2,180 votes; Phineas W. Hitchcock polled 3,421 over George L. Miller, 2,399 votes in the election of 1864.

*U. S. Marshals.* Mark W. Izard, Oct. 28, 1854; Eli R. Doyle, April 7, 1855; Benjamin P. Rankin, March 29, 1856; Phineas W. Hitchcock, Sept. 19, 1861; and Casper E. Yost, April 1, 1865.

## CHAPTER VII

### NEBRASKA'S GOVERNMENT AS A STATE

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION (1867-9)—CHANGE IN CAPITAL—  
BUTLER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION—BUTLER'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION 1871—  
THE IMPEACHMENT OF A GOVERNOR—GOVERNOR FURNAS'S ADMINISTRATION  
(1873-5)—GOVERNOR GARBER'S ADMINISTRATION (1875-7)—THE CONSTITUTION  
OF 1875—GOVERNOR GARBER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION (1877-9)—GOVERNOR  
NANCE'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1879-1883)—GOVERNOR DAWES' ADMINISTRATIONS  
(1883-1887)—GOVERNOR THAYER'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1887-1891)—GOVERNOR  
BOYD'S ADMINISTRATION (1891-3)—GOVERNOR CROUNSE'S ADMINISTRATION  
(1893-5)—GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S ADMINISTRATION (1895-1899)—NEBRASKA IN  
THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—GOVERNOR POYNTER'S ADMINISTRATION (1899-  
1901)—GOVERNORS DIETRICH-SAVAGE ADMINISTRATION (1901-3)—GOVERNOR  
MICKEY'S ADMINISTRATIONS (1903-1907)—GOVERNOR SHELDON'S ADMINISTRATION  
(1907-1909)—GOVERNOR SHALLENBERGER'S ADMINISTRATION (1909-1911)—  
GOVERNOR ALDRICH'S ADMINISTRATION (1911-13)—GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S AD-  
MINISTRATIONS (1913-1917)—GOVERNOR NEVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION (1917-1919)  
—SEMI-CENTENNIAL STATEHOOD CELEBRATION, 1917—NEBRASKA IN THE WORLD  
WAR—GOVERNOR MC KELVIE'S ADMINISTRATION (1919-1921)—CONSTITUTIONAL  
CONVENTION OF 1920—STATE INSTITUTIONS—ROSTER OF STATE OFFICERS.

The territorial survey has brought Nebraska down to the point of her establishment as a separate state. From this point on, March, 1867, we will make a brief survey of the State Government, first; dividing it into the units of the administrations of her various governors, perhaps as expedient as any other arrangement, and at the same time, carrying along the progression of the various activities, both chronologically and topically.

**GOVERNOR BUTLER'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.** The new Constitution (1866) provided that the senators and representatives, and the state officers should be chosen at biennial elections on the second Tuesday in October. But the election of the first set of officers took place on June 2, 1866. It was at that time Hon. T. M. Marquette was elected representative in Congress, over J. Sterling Morton, by a vote of 4,821 to 4,105. But the first regular election was held in October, 1866, even though the young state was still out of the Union, and it was then that Hon. John Taffe secured 4,820 votes while A. S. Paddock received but 4,072 and the brilliant but eccentric George Francis Train but 30. The first state governor, David Butler by a vote of 4,093 defeated J. Sterling Morton with 3,948. Associated with this first governor, furnished by Pawnee County, as the other state officers for the young state were: Thomas P. Kennard, secretary of state and librarian; John Gillespie, elected to pass from territorial to state official



family, as auditor; Augustus Kountze, treasurer, another of the territorial official family who was retained; Champion S. Chase, chosen for the new office of attorney-general. Governor Butler, a native of Indiana, who had lived in Nebraska since 1858, had a public record of service in both houses of the Territorial Legislature. He at once called a special session of the Legislature, in his proclamation of April 4th, and that session convened May 18, 1867. This session was called for the purpose of enacting laws and amending of existing statutes to harmonize with the new order of government.

*Change in Capital.* In the summer of 1867, the capital was formally moved from Omaha to Lincoln, in accordance with an Act of the Legislature passed the year previous. Governor Butler, Auditor Gillespie and Secretary of State Kennard had been empowered to select a site for the new capital, and after a thorough study and investigation, had chosen Lincoln.

1868. The contract for the erection of the State House was let on January 11, 1868, to Joseph Ward, Chicago, for the sum of \$49,000. The walls were constructed of magnesian limestone from the Beatrice quarries in Gage County. The building was sufficiently completed for occupancy, so that by December 3, Governor Butler issued his proclamation announcing the removal of the seat of government to Lincoln and the removal of the archives to that point.

An extra session of the Legislature convened in Omaha on October 27th, to make necessary provisions for the election of presidential electors, the existing laws being defective in this respect.

On November 3d, the citizens of Nebraska participated in the first national and state election. The republican state ticket triumphed and brought about the election of; presidential electors, supporting Gen. U. S. Grant for president and Hon. Schuyler Colfax for vice-president; T. M. Marquette, Lewis Allgewahr and J. F. Warner. For congressman, John Taffe with 8,724 votes defeated Andrew J. Poppleton, who had 6,318 votes. For governor, David Butler was re-elected over J. R. Porter, by a vote of 8,576 to 6,349. Along with them, were elected; Secretary of State, T. P. Kennard, Auditor, John Gillespie, Treasurer, James Sweet.

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1869. The fifth session of the State Legislature (incorrectly named "first regular session" on the title page of the journal) met at Lincoln, the first session to meet there after the removal to that place. It met on January 7, 1869. The officers were, Hon E. B. Taylor, president of the senate; S. M. Chapman, Secretary; and in the house, Hon. Wm. McLennan, of Otoe County, Speaker, and John S. Bowen, chief Clerk. No particular work was laid out for this session and it was rather uneventful. Perhaps the most notable Act was the legislative establishment of the University of Nebraska, for which the corner stone was laid in September of that year, the contract having been let in August for the first building, to Silver and Son, of Logansport, Indiana. The completion of the Union Pacific Railroad was the most important event of this year, affecting Nebraska.

1870. *The sixth session of the Legislature*, assembled February 17th, called as an extraordinary session for twenty specific purposes, first among which was the ratification of the proposed fifteenth amendment to the United States Constitution. The measure of greatest importance was the provision for the erection of a state penitentiary. Immediately upon the close of the sixth session, the seventh session assembled at 8:30 P. M. on March 4, 1870, Governor Butler having called

it by proclamation issued that same day. The objects enumerated by the governor were the passage of a herd law, and the ratification of a contract made by the governor for the conveyance of certain saline lands to Isaac Cohn and John M. Evans. But this session did not result in the accomplishment of the governor's desires.

The state republican convention in August, 1870, nominated John Taffe for congressman, but due to his illness and not wishing to risk a second convention, nominated J. E. LaMaster as contingent, a custom sometimes later carried out and hereinafter referred to. In the fall election of 1870, Congressman Taffe won re-election over George B. Lake, and Governor Butler won re-election over John H. Croxton, and the remainder of the republican ticket was victorious.

In October, 1870, Governor Butler appointed as delegates to the national capital removal convention, at Cincinnati, October 25th, Alvin Saunders, D. J. McCann, W. E. Dillon, A. P. Cagwell, E. S. Dundy, C. H. Gere and R. R. Livingston. Like many another political dream, this did not transpire, and neither "some point near Kearney, Nebraska," nor any other middle-western aspirant won this luscious prize.

GOVERNOR BUTLER'S THIRD ADMINISTRATION. 1871. This administration started out with the eighth session of the Legislature, convening on January 5, 1871. Hon. E. E. Cunningham, of Richardson County, was president of the senate, and C. H. Walker, its secretary; and in the House, Hon. Geo. W. Collins, of Pawnee County, was speaker, and Louis E. Cropsey, chief clerk. The first struggle in this session took place over the election of a United States senator, of course to be a republican, and this brought a fierce contest between the adherents of John M. Thayer, who sought re-election; Phineas W. Hitchcock and Alvin Saunders, all of Omaha. With the aid of twelve democratic members, Hitchcock bested the others and won the honor. Governor Butler in a message to this session urged woman suffrage, an achievement to be yet forty-nine years in its final and full arrival, nationally and in Nebraska.

*The Impeachment of a Governor.* In spite of the rapid strides being made by this young state, everything was not to remain as serene as a summer day with her State Government.

On March 1, 1871, a committee of the house of representatives appeared before the senate of the eighth legislative session and announced that articles of impeachment had been prepared charging Gov. David Butler with misdemeanor in office and looking to his removal. Secretary of State, William H. James, was immediately notified to assume the executive functions, and the senate convened as High Court of Impeachment, on March 6th. With Governor Butler, appeared as his counsel, such illustrious legal lights of Nebraska's early bar, Clinton Briggs, T. M. Marquette and John I. Redick. Hon. J. C. Myers, J. E. Doom and DeForest Porter acted as managers of impeachment, with Experience Estabrook as counsel. Briefly summarizing the illegal and wrongful acts charged in these articles, stripped of all legal verbiage possible, the charges were:

*First.* Appropriating to his own use, a public lands warrant for \$16,881.26, made payable to his order, as governor, by the proper department in Washington.

*Second.* That, of a warrant for \$3,750 issued for services of one M. J. McBird as architect in furnishing plans and specifications for a state public building, said Butler arranged with McBird to receive only \$2,000, and he, Butler, to retain

\$1,750. And that for \$1,828.25 for other services, two warrants of \$914.13 each were issued, one received by McBird and the other used by Butler. This count also narrated demands made upon D. J. Silver & Son in reference to the State University contract; the leasing of saline lands to one Thomas F. Hall for payment of \$5,000 to Butler; and a consideration of \$750 demanded for appointment of Nelson C. Brock to office as treasurer of the university board of regents, and an attempted bribe in connection with location of state insane asylum.

*Third.* Inducing Auditor Gillespie to issue two \$1,000 warrants as being for Attorney Champion S. Chase, for services, but appropriated by said Butler.

*Fourth.* That upon a contract for \$88,000 with one Joseph Ward for building the insane asylum, when the work was not completed upon the foundation in the time named, to be for \$18,000, that he secured allowance of \$45,000.

*Fifth.* That as a member of the board of regents he did become a party to a contract to D. J. Silver & Son for university buildings far in excess of appropriations therefor.

*Sixth.* That he falsely stated in response to a legislative resolution that he had deposited \$16,881.26 received from the National Treasury.

*Seventh.* That he instructed State Treasurer James Sweet to let Anson C. Tichenor have a \$10,000 loan of school money, without the assent of state treasurer or auditor, and upon wholly inadequate and insufficient security.

*Eighth.* Upon the appropriation of \$648.13 of money from the Board of Immigration, paid into the treasury, but appropriated to his own use.

*Ninth.* Improperly executing patents to seventy-five sections of state land, to the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, granted by the Legislature to the Nebraska Air Line Railroad Company.

*Tenth.* Sold a piece of land to one James Gerrens, for \$1,920, of which he kept \$1,120.

*Eleventh.* Sold lots in Lincoln to Andrew J. Cropsey, for \$2,400 retaining a portion to himself.

To the above articles and specifications, Governor Butler made answer specifically and emphatically denying all articles, except the first, and to that he made a long answer in justification of his course; denying that he unlawfully and corruptly neglected to discharge his duties; that he did borrow the sum of \$16,881.26 from the state, giving therefor mortgages in terms and under conditions specifically set forth in his answer.

Space forbids a detailed account of the trial, but may it be noted especially in behalf of this first governor of the state that he was acquitted of every charge except the first. The narration of these charges herein has not been made so much for the purpose of casting any undue reflection upon Governor Butler, but to show the many pitfalls that waylaid the early government of this state, as of every other state in those formulative periods of the various commonwealths. No doubt, the punishment and disgrace felt by this political patriarch of the state's early governmental period was felt as keenly in the removal from office that resulted from the verdict of guilt on this one charge at first glance, almost the most trivial and unsubstantial of the group. Governor Butler remained under this cloud until the Legislature of 1876-77 ordered all record of the famous impeachment trial expunged from its records.

The remainder of this administration, under the leadership of Secretary of State

James, was not to be without more stirring events. An attempt was next made to impeach Auditor "Honest John" Gillespie, but these charges were soon withdrawn and the matter dropped.

An attempt was made in 1871 to provide the state with a new constitution, and a document formulated by a constitutional convention of that year, met defeat by a vote of 8,627 against to 7,986 for. It was generally conceded that certain amendments attached thereto, were not only defeated, but dragged the main effort to defeat with them.

The eighth (adjourned) session of the Legislature, met on January 9, 1872. Much bitter and rancorous feeling had been engendered by the impeachment, or what his friends called persecution, of Governor Butler, by the attempt upon Gillespie, and many came to the defense of Butler, Gillespie and Kennard, the triumvirate regarded gratefully there, as guardians of the magic city, Lincoln. The defeat of the Constitution of 1871 was followed with an attempt in this Legislature to gain re-submission, and the relations of Acting Governor (Secretary) James with some of the members was not the most cordial. A deadlock ensued upon a resolution looking to re-submission of the constitutional questions, and the house attempted to adjourn on January 24th. Acting-Governor James, by proclamation attempted to declare the Legislature no longer in session, and his action was resented by the senate, and when it reassembled on the 21st, took up the concurrent resolution of the house and agreed to it on the 24th, and then attempted to declare the office of governor vacant, and adjourned on the 24th. In the absence of Acting-Governor James from the state, his enemies got busy, and President of the Senate, Isaac S. Hascall, by a proclamation attempted to call the Legislature in special session on February 15th, for certain purposes. Notified by telegraph, James immediately issued a counter proclamation annulling the Hascall call for a special session. A few members assembled, and a test case lodged in the Supreme Court went against them, and another interesting squabble passed into history.

**GOV. ROBERT W. FURNAS' ADMINISTRATION.** The election of 1872 brought to the executive chair of Nebraska, a man who had been identified with Nebraska political work since in 1856, he had removed from Ohio, and commenced the publication of the Nebraska Advertiser, at Brownville. With a record as colonel in the Civil war and Indian agent of the Omaha and Winnebago Indians, and very active record of very beneficent aid to agricultural and horticultural interests of the state, his entry into this high honor was welcomed.

1873. The ninth session of the Legislature convened on January 9, 1873. This session was made memorable by the first contest over the submission of a prohibition amendment to the constitution. In February a resolution was introduced in the house for the removal of the state capital. Hon. W. A. Gwyer was president of the senate, and D. H. Wheeler, secretary; and in the house, M. H. Sessions, speaker and J. W. Eller, chief clerk. Governor Furnas vetoed a bill calling for another constitutional convention. The tenth session of the Legislature was an extra one, beginning March 27, 1873, for the purpose of taking action on the boundaries of certain counties, more specifically outlined in the chapter on county organizations.

This year saw two destructive events, sad chapters in Nebraska history, one

the terrible Easter storm, more fully treated elsewhere in this work, and the other, the first decidedly noticeable, general invasion of the state by grasshoppers.

1874. This year experienced a second general invasion of grasshoppers. The main event of this year was the general election, in which Silas Garber was elected governor, over Albert Tuxbury and J. F. Gardner.

GOVERNOR GARBER'S ADMINISTRATION, 1875. The eleventh session of the Legislature began January 7, 1875, with Hon. N. K. Briggs, as president of the senate, and D. H. Wheeler, as secretary and in the House, E. S. Towle was speaker, and G. L. Brown, chief clerk. Governor Garber had come to Nebraska from California in 1870, and settled in Webster County in 1870. He had a creditable war record, holding a captain's commission in an Iowa regiment. He had laid out the city of Red Cloud in 1872, been probate judge of Webster County and served that district as legislator. This session performed its most notable task in providing the state with a new constitution. It also witnesses a remarkable United States senatorial contest to succeed Senator Tipton, in which Algernon S. Paddock was elected.

*The Constitution of 1875.* A constitutional convention was held in 1875, which devised a constitution that has served the State of Nebraska for forty-five years, and which is thereby worthy of some close examination and careful reflection, and some little honor is due to its members. This constitution was adopted by a vote of 30,202 for and 5,474 against.

The vote upon this constitution is worthy of a place in our record, as it affords a good opportunity to pause and examine the growth of the state, and the numerous counties that had joined the Commonwealth since 1866.

Counties	For	Against	Counties	For	Against
Adams .....	729	21	Gosper .....	20	1
Antelope .....	235	8	Hall .....	949	4
Boone .....	75	63	Hamilton .....	811	5
Buffalo .....	623	17	Harlan .....	321	9
Burt .....	523	180	Hitchcock .....	21	5
Butler .....	560	3	Howard .....	227	..
Cass .....	952	971	Jefferson .....	498	50
Cedar .....	227	78	Johnson .....	568	127
Cheyenne .....	264	6	Kearney .....	143	1
Clay .....	786	3	Keith .....	30	..
Colfax .....	630	19	Knox .....	243	4
Cuming .....	830	12	Lancaster .....	2110	108
Dakota .....	262	35	Lincoln .....	463	16
Dawson .....	313	2	Madison .....	269	116
Dixon .....	363	46	Merriek .....	633	19
Dodge .....	859	218	Nemaha .....	913	161
Douglas .....	1883	350	Nuckolls .....	144	1
Fillmore .....	612	10	Otoe .....	640	999
Franklin .....	382	5	Pawnee .....	525	143
Furnas .....	266	5	Phelps .....	44	..
Gage .....	633	215	Pierce .....	69	27
Greeley .....	42	..	Platte .....	617	27

Counties	For	Against	Counties	For	Against
Polk .....	537	30	Thayer .....	335	10
Richardson .....	1991	60	Valley .....	65	13
Saline .....	1281	34	Washington .....	166	602
Sarpy .....	118	294	Wayne .....	59	1
Saunders .....	1110	172	Webster .....	395	9
Seward .....	928	36	York .....	766	6
Sherman .....	60	1			
Stanton .....	44	96		30,202	5,474

A condensed synopsis of this Constitution which has been in effect forty-five years, was prepared in 1880 by Harrison Johnson of Omaha, and is worthy of a place in even so brief a chronicle of the state as this one.

*Distribution of Powers.* The powers of the Government of this state are divided into three distinctive departments:—Legislative, Executive, and Judicial, and no person or collection of persons, being one of these departments shall exercise any power properly belonging to any of the others. Except as hereinafter expressly directed or permitted.

*Legislative:*—The Legislative authority is vested in a Senate and House of Representatives. (Article IV was taken up with an enumeration of the various counties that should constitute the twenty-six respective senatorial districts and fifty-two representative districts, in years since past increased to twenty-nine senatorial districts and seventy-seven legislative districts, thus making this portion obsolete.) The membership of the House of Representatives was fixed at eighty-four, but could be increased by law; never to exceed one hundred, nor the Senate to exceed thirty-three. The Senate and House of Representatives in joint convention shall have the sole power of impeachment, but a majority of the members elected must concur therein. The Legislature shall not pass local or special laws granting to any corporation, association, or individual, any special or exclusive privilege, immunity, franchise, whatever. Lands under control of the state shall never be donated to railroad companies, private corporations, or individuals.

*Executive.* The Executive Department shall consist of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, treasurer, superintendent of public instruction, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings, who shall each hold his office for the term of two years, from the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January next after his election, and until his successor is elected and qualified. The governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, and treasurer shall reside at the seat of the government during their term of office, and keep the public records, books, and papers there, and shall perform such duties as may be required by law. No person shall be eligible to the office of governor or lieutenant governor who shall not have attained the age of thirty years, and been for two years next preceding his election a citizen of the United States and this state. All civil officers of this state shall be liable for impeachment for any misdemeanor in office. The supreme executive powers shall be invested in the governor, who shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The governor shall be commander in chief of the military and naval forces of the state (except when they shall be called into the service of the United States), and may call out the same to execute the laws, suppress insurrection and repel invasion. In case of death,

impeachment, and notice thereof to the accused, failure to qualify, resignation, absence from the state, or other disability of the governor, the powers, duties and emoluments of the office, for the residue of the term or until the disability shall be removed, shall devolve upon the lieutenant governor. The lieutenant governor shall be president of the senate, and shall vote only when the senate is equally divided. The salaries of the governor, auditor of public accounts, and treasurer shall be \$2,500 each per annum, and of the secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction and commissioner of public lands and buildings, \$2,000 each per annum. The lieutenant governor shall receive twice the compensation of a senator.

*Judicial.* The judicial power of this state shall be vested in supreme court, district courts, county courts, justice of the peace, police magistrate, and in such other courts inferior to the district court, as may be created by law for cities and incorporated towns. The supreme court shall consist of three judges, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum or pronounce a decision. It shall have original jurisdiction in cases relating to revenue, civil cases in which the state shall be a party, mandamus, quo warranto, habeas corpus, and such appellate jurisdiction as may be provided by law; at least two terms of the supreme court shall be held each year at the seat of the government. The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the electors of the state at large, and their terms shall be six years, the state shall be divided into six judicial districts (which has since been increased to eighteen judicial districts with thirty-two district judges) in which each shall elect one judge, for a term of four years. Salary fixed for supreme and district court judges at \$2,500. (By subsequent amendments raised, supreme court, \$4,500 and district judges, \$3,000). No judge of the supreme or district court shall receive any compensation, perquisite, or benefit for or on account of his office in any form whatever, ever act as attorney or counsellor at law, in any manner whatever; nor shall any salary be paid to any county judge.

*Education.* The governor, secretary of state, treasurer, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings shall, under the direction of the legislature, constitute a board of commissioners for the sale, leasing, and general management of all lands and funds set apart for educational purposes, and for the investment of school funds in such manner as may be prescribed by law. All funds belonging to the state for educational purposes, the interest and income whereof, only, are to be used, shall be deemed trust funds held by the state, and the state shall supply all losses thereof that may in any manner accrue so that the same shall remain forever inviolate and undiminished; and shall not be invested or loaned except on U. S. or state securities, or registered county bonds of this state, and such funds, with the interest and income thereof, are hereby solemnly pledged for the purpose for which they are granted and set apart, and shall not be transferred to any other fund for other uses. No sectarian instruction shall be allowed in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by the public funds, set apart for educational purposes; nor shall the state accept any grant, conveyance or bequests, of money, land, or other property, to be used for sectarian purpose. The Legislature may provide by law for the establishment of a school or schools for the safe-keeping, education, employment, reformation of all children under the age of sixteen years who for want of proper parental care, or other cause, are growing up in mendicancy or crime.

*Counties.* No new county shall be formed or established by the Legislature which will reduce the county or counties, or either of them to a less area than 400 square miles, nor shall any county be formed of a less area. No county shall be divided, nor have any part stricken therefrom without first submitting the question to a vote of the people of the county, nor unless a majority of all the legal voters of the county voting on the question shall vote for the same.

*Railroad Corporations.* Railroads heretofore constructed, or that may hereafter be constructed in this state, are hereby declared public highways, and shall be free to all persons, for the transportation of their persons and property thereon, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the law. And the Legislature may from time to time pass laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on the different railroads in this state. The liability of railroad corporations as common carriers shall never be limited.

*Municipal Corporations.* No city, county, town, precinct, municipality or other subdivision of the state shall ever become a subscriber to the capital stock or owner of such stock or any portion or interest therein, or any railroad or private corporation or association."

The Bill of Rights of this Constitution has served its purpose sufficiently well that in 1920, the Constitutional Convention allowed it to remain intact, offering one or two changes and an addition. This wonderfully drawn document of twenty-six sections: 1, established equal rights of persons; 2, prohibits slavery; 3, provides no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; 4, guarantees religious freedom; 5, guarantees freedom of speech and press; 6, provides trial by jury shall remain inviolate, and a jury of not less than twelve may be authorized; 7, search and seizure clause; 8, habeas corpus shall not be suspended; 9, bail allowed except for treason and murder; 10, indictment and information for criminal offenses; 11, rights of accused guaranteed; 12, no person compelled to give evidence against himself, or be placed twice in jeopardy; 13, justice shall be administered without delay; 14, defines treason, 15, penalties restricted; 17, military power in strict subordination to civil power; 18, soldiers not quartered on citizen in time of peace; 19, right of petition and peaceful assemblage shall not be abridged; 20, no imprisonment for debt; 21, no private property taken for public use without just compensation; 22, free elections and use of elective franchise; 23, writ of error fortified; 24, appeals in civil cases not to be denied; 25, no distinction to be made in property rights of aliens, and 26, powers not enumerated in this constitution retained by the people.

The personnel of this convention presented names of numerous members who later became very prominent in Nebraska's public affairs. The president of the convention, John Lee Webster, is forty-five years later one of the leading members of the Nebraska Bar and one of the steadfast patrons of Nebraska's Historical Society and all efforts to preserve Nebraska's records and story. Its secretary, Guy A. Brown, later served as clerk of the supreme court and state librarian. A son of one member, A. J. Weaver, of Richardson County, in 1920, served as president of the next Constitutional Convention. Another member, O. A. Abbott, also a member of the Convention of 1871, and the state's first lieutenant governor, is still practicing law in Grand Island, in 1921, after fifty-three years active practice at the Hall County Bar and indefatigably supported the 1920 series of amendments, with few exceptions.



Three members of this body became United States Senators, M. L. Hayward, Chas. F. Manderson and C. H. Van Wyck. Two, J. E. Boyd and J. W. Dawes became governors of the state. Several, Jefferson H. Broady, S. B. Pound, Samuel Maxwell, M. B. Reese, W. H. Munger, A. J. Weaver, became judges of the state and federal courts; and two or three became members of Congress, and a dozen others very prominent in the various walks of life.

The members of this convention were:

John Lee Webster, President

O. A. Abbott	James W. Dawes	J. H. Sauls
Samuel Maxwell	R. F. Stevenson	A. G. Kendall
Andrew Hallner	Jacob Vallery, Sr.	S. H. Coats
Luke Agur	J. E. Doom	C. H. Frady
John McPherson	S. R. Foss	Charles F. Walther
J. D. Hamilton	C. H. Van Wyck	R. C. Eldridge
J. P. Becker	W. L. Dunlap	Joseph Garber
W. H. Munger	Jefferson H. Broady	A. M. Walling
James Harper	S. B. Pound	J. G. Ewan
J. E. Boyd	M. L. Hayward	C. H. Gere
J. H. Perry	Charles H. Brown	T. L. Warrington
Robt. B. Harrington	Isaac Powers, Jr.	James Laird
Clinton Briggs	D. P. Henry	Henry Grebe
C. W. Pierce	S. F. Burch	A. J. Weaver
J. B. Hawley	M. B. Reese	Chas. F. Manderson
H. H. Shedd	B. I. Hinman	Edwin N. Grenell
S. M. Kirkpatrick	S. H. Calhoun	M. W. Wilcox
A. H. Conner	W. M. Robertson	Frank Martin
George S. Smith	M. R. Hopewell	George L. Griffing
John J. Thompson	E. C. Carns	J. F. Zediker
W. B. Cummins	Josiah Rogers	A. W. Matthews
W. H. Sterns	C. E. Hunter	William A. Gwyer
L. B. Thorne	T. S. Clark	

Guy A. Brown, Secretary

C. L. Mather, Assistant Secretary

1876. The grasshopper scourge, which had continued through 1875, was still a perplexing problem to the people of Nebraska, and in October of this year a meeting of numerous western governors was called to discuss this trouble. In the political campaign of this year Governor Garber was renominated and re-elected.

The twelfth session of the legislature was called to meet on December 5, 1876, to pass upon the question of the legality of the election of Amasa Cobb to the office of presidential elector, and Judge Cobb was chosen by ballot, in joint convention of both houses. The thirteenth session was held on the same day, December 5, for the purpose of canvassing the popular vote cast for the state ticket and congressmen.

1877. GOVERNOR GARBER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The fourteenth session of the Legislature convened in regular session, January 2, 1877. The Senate, with the advent of the lieutenant governor as a state officer now took a little different form in its presiding officiate. Lieutenant Governor Othman A. Abbott became the regular presiding officer, Senator George F. Blanchard became President pro tempore, and D. H. Wheeler was secretary. In the House, Hon. Albinus

Nance was speaker and B. D. Slaughter, chief clerk. In the usual contest for United States Senator, Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders won. Another energetic attempt to remove the Capital from Lincoln ensued, and failed, and this question quieted down until 1911. One of the important pieces of legislation at this session was the passage of a bill forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors within three miles of any place where a religious society was assembled for religious worship in a field or woodland. Grasshopper legislation played an important part. Other subjects were the creation of a state board of immigration, and provisions regulating the submission of amendments to the Constitution.

1878. In May of this year, Judge Daniel E. Gantt, chief justice of the state supreme court died, and in a few days following, Hon. Amasa Cobb was appointed to fill the vacancy on that court. The President approved the bill in June, to permit holding United States district and circuit court at Lincoln. Steps were taken in August toward the organization of a state historical society. The banner of the republican state ticket was led in this year by Albinus Nance as the victorious gubernatorial candidate.

1879. GOVERNOR NANCE'S ADMINISTRATION. The Eighth Legislature convened in fifteenth session, January 7, 1879, and adjourned on February 25. Lieut. Gov. Edmund C. Carns, presiding over the Senate, with Hon. William Marshall, as president pro tem., and Sherwood Burr, secretary; and in the House, Hon. C. P. Mathewson was speaker, and B. D. Slaughter again chief clerk. This legislature made provision that all impeachments of state officers should be tried by the supreme court, except for supreme judges, by all district judges. The new United States court house and postoffice at Lincoln was completed and ready for occupancy in January. A legislative investigation of the University was a feature of this year's session. Ex-President Grant visited Omaha during November of this year.

1880. In the political campaign of this year, the republicans accorded a renomination to Governor Nance, who led the state ticket to victory again.

1881. GOVERNOR NANCE'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The ninth legislature in sixteenth session convened January 4, 1881, and remained in session until February 26th. Lieutenant Governor Carns presided over the Senate, with John B. Dinsmore, of Clay County, as President pro tem., and Sherwood Burr, remaining as secretary. In the House, H. H. Shedd of Saunders County was speaker and B. D. Slaughter remained chief clerk. Van Wyck won the U. S. senatorship over Paddock in this session. The really important achievement of this session was the initiation of the Slocumb Law. This Act gave the local licensing boards discretionary power, and so increased the license fee, that it materially decreased the number of saloons, and for more than forty years remained a very effective weapon of regulation, until statewide prohibition came. The high skill of the work of John H. Ames, and his colleagues Alexander H. Connor, of Kearney, and Stephen H. Calhoun, of Nebraska City, as the committee on revision which had this act in charge, and their assisting colleagues in this session of the legislature was attested by the fact that no changes were later made in this act, in more than forty years of its active usefulness.

This year, 1881, saw the formal organization of a movement destined to grow into importance, The Farmer's Alliance. Another organization destined to play a persistent part and put up a hopeful struggle for many years, was the Nebraska

woman suffrage association, which had a 49 year struggle before it was to see the full accomplishment of its hopes, in 1920. A woman suffrage amendment was pushed through the House in 1881, but a prohibition amendment failed that year. This was a year of great floods, with their attendant distress and disaster, especially at Lincoln, Omaha, Nebraska City, Humboldt, Roca, Sterling, and Brownville. Ex-Senator P. W. Hitchcock, father of Nebraska's present U. S. Senator, G. M. Hitchcock (1920), died on July 10th.

1882. A strike on the B. & M. Railroad of laborers necessitated calling eight companies of militia and three companies of regulars in March. In April, Governor Nance called the Legislature to meet on May 2d in special session (the tenth special session), and it convened for a session of thirteen business days, terminating on May 24th. Its call showed among other purposes were to divide the state into three congressional districts, regulate the powers of cities of first class, and assign Custer County; to provide for expenses incurred in quelling the recent riots in Omaha, mentioned above, and to give assent to the act of Congress to extend the northern boundary of the state. A report was made upon a voluminous investigation of bribery charges that had been made, growing out of railroad legislation in the session of 1881. The men involved were acquitted, but the member in question and the lieutenant governor found to have merited the solemn criticism of the House, but the substitute motion providing for the same lost by one vote. This year saw the organization of a state anti-monopoly league at Lincoln, and also in the fall, an anti-prohibition convention was held at Omaha. A greenback convention was held at Lincoln, in September.

We are now approaching a decade, in which for something less than ten years a series of unsuccessful attempts were made to procure reform legislation, and to combat the insidious hold that had been gained by the railroad interests upon the political affairs of the state. This had been attained by a most liberal use of the "pass privilege" not only to state officials, legislators, court officials and employes, but to professional men and political workers in almost every community and in those days was hardly considered "wrong" as it is viewed in the early years of the twentieth century. The Omaha Bee, in these early years of the eighties often waxed very defiant of the "corporation control" of the dominant party, the republican. The republicans nominated James W. Dawes, of Saline County, for governor, and the democrats chose J. Sterling Morton. In their platform they attacked the issuance of free passes to public officers and sought legislation against the practice and generally denounced railroad interference with political conventions. Dawes easily defeated Morton, and the woman suffrage amendment to the constitution was defeated almost two to one. But the democrats elected their candidate for state treasurer this year.

1883. GOVERNOR DAWES' FIRST ADMINISTRATION. The tenth legislature, in eighteenth session, convened January 2, 1883, adjourning on February 26. Lieut. Gov. Alfred N. Agee was president of the Senate, with Alexander H. Connor, of Buffalo County, president pro tem., and G. L. Brown, as secretary, succeeding Sherwood Burr, who had served for three terms. In the House, George M. Humphrey, of Pawnee County, was speaker, and D. B. Slaughter, for his fifth successive term, was chief clerk. Charles F. Manderson was elected United States Senator to succeed Saunders. The democrats instead of making hay while the anti-monopoly sun was rising, supported their two strong, but rather reactionary party leaders, Morton and

J. E. Boyd. Of course, in those days, just as now, forty years later, each party had its two widely divergent elements, radical or progressive as now called, and ultra-conservative, or reactionary, as in modern parlance, termed. With four of her sons on the republican ticket holding a very even lead at the start, Manderson, Saunders, then senator, J. H. Millard and John C. Cowin, Douglas County was pretty sure of the prize. The construction of the new capitol was authorized at this session. Judicial districts in the state were increased from the constitutional number of six, to ten. Legislative investigation ensued for both the insane hospital and the penitentiary. An attempt to create a railroad commission passed the House, but failed in the Senate. A dozen other proposed measures reflected the growing anti-railroad monopoly feeling. The construction of the capitol was moving along. The west wing, finally constructed at a total cost of \$83,178.81, was finished by the close of 1881, and Contractor Stout finished the east wing, at a final cost of \$108,247.92, in 1882.

1884. In their May convention the republicans of the state tabled, by a small margin, a motion to declare a preference for James G. Blaine. In the August convention, the republicans re-nominated Dawes for governor, while the democrats for a third time chose J. Sterling Morton, to face defeat. An amendment to extend legislative sessions carried this year, but the one to provide a railroad commission failed. The corner-stone of the state capitol was laid on July 15th.

1885. GOVERNOR DAWES' SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The eleventh legislature met, in nineteenth session, January 6, 1885. Its adjournment was on March 5th. Lieutenant Governor Shedd was president and Church Howe, president pro tem., and Sherwood Burr returned for another session as secretary; while in the House, Allen W. Field of Lincoln was speaker, and J. F. Zedicker was chief clerk. There was a legislative investigation of school funds, and appropriations provided for many unfinished matters from prior years.

1886. In January of this year, the supreme court decided that counties must pay for the upkeep of their insane patients. The republicans in this year chose General John M. Thayer as their successful standard-bearer, and his opponent was James E. North, of Columbus.

1887. GOVERNOR THAYER'S ADMINISTRATION. The twelfth legislature, met in twentieth session, on January 4, 1887, and stayed until March 31st. Lieut. Gov. H. H. Shedd, presided over the Senate, with George D. Meiklejohn, of Nance County, as president pro tem., and W. M. Seeley as Secretary; while in the House, N. V. Harlan of York was speaker, and B. D. Slaughter, again chief clerk. A bureau of labor was established at this session, as was a state board of pharmacy. This latter consisted of the attorney-general, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and commissioner of public lands and buildings. A state inspector of oils, at \$2,000 per annum was provided for. The labor bureau was one destined not to become of great importance until some thirty years later. These boards are mentioned at this point, mainly, as being the early members of a flock of such boards that sprang up in the following three decades. The old Constitution of 1875 did not allow the formation of new executive offices. This was circumvented, as the necessity for further bureaus and state departments became evident and pressing, by creating boards or bureaus, with the governor and other state elective officers as members, or head, and then providing for a deputy, or secretary, or inspector, who drew the salary, conducted the department, and was particularly, the "political general."

This continued until in 1915, when under Governor Morehead, consolidation of these departments, and bureaus, then numbering almost thirty, was begun, and in 1919, when under Governor McKelvie, the new Civil Administrative Code was enacted, around twenty such boards, commissions and bureaus still existed, and the Constitutional Convention of 1920 provided for the creation of new departments, and new executive officers, to do away with this process of circumvention, and duplication.

The session of 1885, provided for a three cent passenger fare, reducing the existing three and half and four cent a mile rates. The board of railroad commissioners was abolished and a "board of transportation" established. In January, 1887, the first state convention of Woman Suffrage Society was addressed by Miss Susan B. Anthony. Algernon S. Paddock, who had been territorial secretary with Governor Saunders in the last years preceding statehood, was elected United State Senator, the office some years before held by Saunders. In March of this year, George L. Miller retired from the editorship of the World-Herald. Dr. Miller generally allied with the faction of which Boyd was another leader and opposed to the Morton faction was a great factor in the party proceedings of those days. Arrayed likewise against the shrewd and aggressive Edward Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, the keen rivalry, and what even might be termed feud, of those two great state newspapers was engendered. An asylum for the insane was located at Hastings in this 1887 session. In October of this year, President Grover Cleveland stopped in Omaha. In November, the supreme court of the state upheld the power of the new board of transportation to fix rates. In this same month, Mayor A. J. Sawyer and the city council of Lincoln were incarcerated in the Douglas County jail, and fined for contempt by Judge Brewer, but ten days later released by order of U. S. Attorney General Garland. This action arose from a hearing before the city council in which the police judge was being tried upon charges of accepting fines from certain law violating interests upon immunity for their acts. During an adjournment after which the entire council was to pass upon the defendant's case, the order was secured at St. Louis interfering with the council's course; and when the council later removed the police judge and appointed another, the "fireworks" started.

1888. In January, the U. S. supreme court reversed Circuit Judge Brewer's decision in the habeas corpus case of the Lincoln city council. The Union Pacific obtained an injunction to restrain the board of transportation from interfering with their scale of rates. January 12, Nebraska was visited by the great blizzard, elsewhere treated in this work. In February, the great railroad strike on the Burlington started, and in March, Judge Dundy granted the railroad an injunction against the strikers. This was a presidential campaign year, and in the outset, Nebraska took one notable part when John M. Thurston was made temporary chairman of the national republican convention at Chicago. Governor Thayer was accorded a renomination by the republicans, and his opponent was John A. McShane of Omaha. In their platform this year, the democrats began what developed into an habitual pounding of the republican creation, "a trust."

1889. GOVERNOR THAYER'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. The thirteenth legislature met in eleventh regular session (dropping a count of the ten extra sessions) January 1, 1889, and remained in session until March 30th, the sixty-seventh day. Geo. D. Meiklejohn, the president pro tem., of the last Senate now presided in his

clear right as lieutenant governor, with Church Howe again president pro tem., and W. M. Seelye again secretary while in the House, John C. Watson, of Otoe County, was speaker, and Bradner D. Slaughter, of Nance County, for the seventh and last time was chief clerk. Agitation over Attorney-General Leese's report favoring throwing the Union Pacific Railroad into receivership, selling it and having the state control it; over having a state railroad commission, and over the Omaha police commission law were features of the opening of this session. It was a fairly quiet, and somewhat reactionary session, ominous of the storm about to break forth in Nebraska politics in the next few years. Among the three amendments to the constitution which this legislature submitted, two respecting increase of supreme judges from three to five, and the salaries to \$3,500 and district judges' salaries at \$3,000 the remaining one was the really important step of the session. This was the submission of prohibition to a vote of the people. The wording of this amendment was "The manufacture, sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage are forever prohibited in this state, and the legislature shall provide by law for the enforcement of this provision." The democrats opposed it and the republicans were somewhat divided. A. E. Cady offered an additional proposition, that "The manufacture and sale and keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage shall be licensed and regulated by law." Charles F. Manderson was re-elected U. S. Senator, the first of Nebraska senators to be accorded a re-election to a full second term of another six years, Tipton having only served a partial term before his re-election.

Forecasting the growing influence of the Farmers' Alliance movement, was the filing of articles of incorporation with capital stock at \$150,000 of the Custer County Farmers' Alliance purchasing and selling corporation. Congressman James Laird died at Hastings, in August of this year. In September, the Union Pacific Railroad employes at Omaha federated in the Brotherhood of Railway Employees, another movement portending future developments. In October, occurred the death of Hon. Guy A. Brown, state librarian and clerk of the state supreme court.

1890. In January, the state board of agriculture located the state fair at Lincoln for five years; and the central shops of the Burlington were located at Havelock in the summer of this year. A conference of anti-monopoly republicans was held in May. This was the year in which the populist outbreak started in Nebraska. On July 29th, a state convention met at Lincoln, composed of representatives of the Farmers' Alliance, State Grange and Knights of Labor, and this body nominated for governor, John H. Powers, of Hitchcock County, president of the Alliance. Charles H. VanWyck was his chief contender for this nomination, and then refused to take the consolation prize of a congressional nomination. To add to the growing confusion, Governor Thayer had in May issued a call for a special session of the legislature to convene on June 5th. Its purposes were to abolish the transportation board, pass a maximum railroad rate law, adopt the Australian ballot and act upon currency legislation. The furore created by this move forced its recall and revocation within a week. The republicans in July nominated for governor, Lucius D. Richards, of Dodge County, and the democrats chose James E. Boyd. Another milestone in this year's campaign was the nomination for Congress in the first district of William J. Bryan. Boyd for governor received 71,331 votes, Powers, 70,137, and so complete was the revulsion that Richards, the republican, ran third with 68,878, but the rest of the republican state ticket pulled

through by small majorities, ranging close to 4,000. To Congress the opposing candidates were elected and republicans beaten in each district. William J. Bryan defeating Wm. J. Connell; William A. McKeighan defeating N. V. Harlan; Omer M. Kem defeating both Dorsey, republican, and W. H. Thompson, democrat. The prohibition amendment was defeated by a vote of 82,293 for and 111,728 against; a majority against it being but a few thousand more than the majority of over 22,000 cast against it in Douglas County. During this year, the citizens in the western part of the state were suffering from the loss of their crops. Despite the denial of Governor Thayer in March that any of the people in Nebraska needed help, in April, the governor and Robert R. Greer, president of the state board of agriculture, appealed to the state to aid the settlers in Cheyenne, Kimball, Scotts Bluff and Banner counties, and in November, the governor and the mayor of Lincoln joined in a call for a meeting to devise means to help these western settlers in the state. Rev. Geo. W. Martin was appointed superintendent of relief and Rev. Luther P. Ludden, superintendent of distribution of this work, and about ten days later an advisory board and treasurer were appointed. In December, the citizens of Chadron appealed for protection from the Indians, and one of Governor Thayer's last important official acts was to send to them one company of militia from Long Pine and order companies at Fremont, Tekamah and Central City to be in readiness. About a week later he had to order out another company of militia to quell impending riots in the legislative hall. The exit of Governor Thayer from the executive duties was occasioned with considerable stir and excitement. He refused to turn over the governorship to James E. Boyd, and fortified the executive offices. So the state had two governors. Thayer held down the regular executive offices and Boyd established himself in the old board of transportation quarters. Thayer then applied to the supreme court for a writ of quo warranto against Governor-elect Boyd, and on January 15, Thayer vacated the executive offices, surrendering to Governor-elect Boyd, reserving any rights he might have thereto until the decision of the supreme court could be forthcoming. On February 6th the two governors delivered their message to the Legislature.

**GOVERNOR BOYD'S ADMINISTRATION. 1891.** The fourteenth legislature convened in the twelfth regular session on January 6th, and remained in session for seventy-one days, the longest record then attained by any session, with adjournment on April 4th. Thomas J. Majors, so long a prominent figure in Nebraska governmental circles, was presiding officer of the Senate, as lieutenant governor, and W. A. Poynter, later governor, as president pro tem.; with C. H. Pirtle as secretary; while in the house, Hon. Samuel M. Elder, independent, of Clay County, was speaker, and Eric Johnson, chief clerk. While in this initial campaign the independents had not won the governorship, they took all of the elective offices of both houses unto themselves. A controversy arose over the right of retiring Lieutenant-Governor Meiklejohn to preside over the joint convention of the two Houses, which was claimed by Speaker Elder, so that the election of Boyd might be declared. Then to add to the confusion, the contest of Powers against Boyd's election came on for hearing, based upon a claim that while Boyd appeared to have a plurality of 1,114 votes over the other candidates, some 2,000 persons were bribed in Douglas County to vote for Boyd. What a trial might have disclosed will never be known, for a most emphatic denial of any trial cut short this contest. The advent of Gov-

ernor Boyd's administration, following the victorious battle of Wounded Knee, which brought into practicability the recall of the Nebraska troops upon advice of safety by Major General Miles, faced that situation fairly well cleared up. It was in this session that the Australian ballot act received its enactment. The census of 1890 made possible the increase of congressional districts from three to six, and of judicial districts from twelve to fifteen. A girl's industrial home was provided for at Geneva. There was appropriated \$100,000 for the drought-stricken sections of the state; the relief commissioners named were, Samuel M. Elder, Luther P. Ludden, R. R. Greer, Louis Meyer, George W. Martin, John Fitzgerald, Andrew J. Sawyer, Charles W. Mosher, J. W. Hartley and W. N. Nason. The Newberry Railroad Bill, which was passed in the Legislature after a three-day deadlock, and then vetoed by Governor Boyd stirred up further confusion. While the political campaign of 1891 was in an off-year, it bristled with demands for an amendment providing for a railroad commission; for relief from the exorbitant freight rates, with the "free coinage of silver" slipping in. In March, the state supreme court had overruled Governor Boyd's motion to dismiss the quo-warranto case, and required him to answer, and in May, the state supreme court declared Governor Boyd ineligible to the office, and Governor John M. Thayer was re-instated, because Governor Boyd's citizenship was questioned, it being claimed his father's naturalization papers in Ohio were taken out after Boyd became of age, and did not thereby enfranchise the son. President Harrison visited Nebraska in May of this year; Ex-Governor David Butler dropped dead at his home near Pawnee City, May 25th, and in August, Judge Oliver P. Mason died in Lincoln.

1892. On February 8, 1892, the Supreme Court of the United States overruled the Nebraska court and declared that Governor James E. Boyd was a citizen, and thereby eligible and entitled to the office of governor, and again the executive honors were switched from Thayer to Boyd. A week later the democrats of the state gathered in Lincoln and celebrated the installation of Governor Boyd, and in April, the state supreme court denied the motion of Thayer to re-open this contest or case with Boyd. In this month, April, the U. S. Senate passed a bill reimbursing Nebraska for the moneys spent in the Sioux uprising the year before. On July 2d, the national convention of the People's Independent (Populist) party convened at Omaha, and there drew up a platform that in the succeeding thirty-eight years has ranked as one of the most wonderfully progressive and prophetic political documents in American political history. The republicans took a stand behind Senator Paddock for re-election and for Benjamin Harrison for President, and when the democrats met that year, a procedure that was to become a habit in after-years started, with W. J. Bryan stirring the convention and placing it up against knotty problems of remaining conservative or stepping ahead progressively. Although for a time properly squelched, Bryan nevertheless added his resolution for "free coinage of silver." But despite the stormy scenes and the dramatic avowal of Bryan when questioned if he was not for Cleveland, that he was for Horace E. Boies of Iowa for President, the Cleveland forces maintained their position, and the majority report was adopted. The People's Independent convention for state nomination was held late in June and resulted in the nomination again of John H. Powers. The republicans chose former Supreme Court Justice Lorenzo Crounse, over Thomas J. Majors, whose nomination had even been seconded by his old time political and personal rival, Church Howe. Powers, the candidate



of the first independent convention, refused to stand for the same honor at the second people's independent convention in August, and Charles H. VanWyck, this time, won the nomination. In the democratic convention, a revulsion of sentiment caused largely by the veto of the Newberry Bill had swamped Governor Boyd. Samuel N. Wolbach of Hall and Frank P. Ireland of Otoe were under consideration for the gubernatorial nomination, but both withdrew and the plum swiftly went to J. Sterling Morton, arch-enemy to the Miller-Boyd faction. A truly aggressive campaign followed, with the election of Crouse resulting; the vote standing Crouse, 78,426, VanWyck, 68,617 and Morton, 44,195. Bryan, for Congress, defeated Allen W. Field; McKeighan was re-elected over William E. Andrews, and Kem defeated Whitehead, in the first, fifth and sixth districts respectively. This campaign had been enlivened by joint debates between Bryan and Field, and between McKeighan and Andrews, which still lurk in the memories of the older citizens of the state. Hon. G. M. Lambertson, a Nebraska citizen, who had served as counsel for the Inter-state Commerce Commission, in December, 1892, assumed the duties of assistant secretary of the treasury.

GOVERNOR CROUSE'S ADMINISTRATION, 1893. In January of this year, the Capital National Bank in Lincoln failed, and on February 1st, an indictment was returned against President C. W. Mosher. Out of this failure grew famous litigation, the fag-ends of which are still in the courts, twenty-seven years later (1920). The fifteenth legislature met in twenty-third session (13th regular) on January 3, 1893, and remained until April 8th. Lieutenant Governor Majors remained as presiding officer of the Senate, with E. M. Correll, of Hebron, Thayer County, as president pro tem., and H. A. Edwards, of Grand Island, as secretary. In the House, J. N. Gaffin, independent, of Saunders, was elected speaker and Eric Johnson again served as chief clerk. Another Newberry railroad bill fixing freight rates and classification was passed at this session. In the election for United States Senator, William V. Allen, independent, defeated Senator Paddock. There had been many other candidates and John M. Thurston had once been within three votes of election. Impeachment proceedings, directed against Secretary of State John C. Allen, commissioner of public lands and buildings Augustus R. Humphrey, Attorney-General George H. Hastings and Treasurer John E. Hill, were launched by passage of a resolution through the House. The three attorneys chosen were, Stephen B. Pound, republican, William L. Greene, democrat, and George W. Doane, democrat, in place of Eleazer Wakeley, who did not care to serve. The specifications were mainly directed at acts of these officers as members of board of public lands and buildings, in relation to the conduct of the penitentiary, and the construction of a cell house there. The whole affair led to considerable investigation among the different state institutions. Gross corruption and mismanagement were found at the penitentiary, and even worse conditions reported at the insane asylum: Superintendent Mallileu of the Kearney Industrial Home was exonerated from charges of misappropriation of funds; impeachment proceedings against Ex-Treasurer Hill, Ex-Auditor Thomas Benton were dismissed on the ground they had retired from office, as was the case against Attorney-General Leese, and the cases against Humphrey, Hastings and Allen were dropped on technical grounds, without determination of the facts.

Nebraska had for the first time been honored with a national cabinet portfolio, when J. Sterling Morton was appointed secretary of agriculture by President

Cleveland, in 1892. On April 22, the employees of that department at Washington planted a white oak tree in the honor of this "father of Arbor Day." In July of this year, President Mosher of the defunct Capital National Bank was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Legislation was started this summer to prevent the board of transportation from reducing freight rates. In September, Congressman W. J. Bryan introduced a bill for the guarantee of national bank deposits, which may have then been a futile effort, but which forecast one of the progressive reforms to come some twenty years later.

1894. In January, the state supreme court declared the law for deposit of state funds not in conflict with the Constitution. It was in this year that the terribly destructive hot winds, and lack of rain, destroyed the crops in the state and plunged Nebraska into the terrible, never-forgotten drought period. The republicans decided to buck the oncoming wave of radicalism with their stalwart conservative, Thomas J. Majors, while the people's independent party nominated for governor, Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow, upon the first ballot, and the democrats after endorsing William J. Bryan for U. S. senator split into two camps: one staying by their colors and endorsing Holcomb, and thus taking the first step in fusion. The bolters went to another hall and nominated John A. McShane for governor. The increasing hard times had not only brought Bryan back to a position where he was endorsed by the party that so emphatically repudiated him two years before, but they swept Judge Holcomb into the governor's chair. But fusion prevailed this time only on the head of the ticket, and except for Kem, the republicans won out in congressional contests. In November, 1894, Judge Brewer of the United States Circuit Court declared the Newberry Bill unconstitutional. In December, Turner M. Marquette, whose career in Nebraska political affairs dated from territorial days, died at Plattsmouth.

**GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION.** 1895. On January 5, Silas A. Holcomb, the first fusion or populist governor was inaugurated. The sixteenth legislature, in twenty-fourth session convened this week, and adjourned April 5th. Lieut. Gov. Robert E. Moore, of Lancaster County, was president, with John C. Watson, of Otoe County, president pro tem., and T. E. Sedgwick, of York, secretary. Charles L. Richards of Thayer County was Speaker of the House, and W. M. Geddes, chief clerk. This legislature restored the sugar bounty repealed by its predecessor. It made an appropriation for drought sufferers, and a still larger one for supplying seed and food for teams during the spring of 1895. Illustrative of how far reaching the slightest acts or most thoughtless votes of a legislator may prove to be "chickens that long after came home to roost"—is the incident, that one member of this 1895 legislature voted against this seed measure and twenty-one years later when running for governor and calling attention to the fact that he had once homesteaded in Nebraska, this "vote" was most decisively used by the opposition in contributing to his defeat. There was little real notable legislation passed at this session. John M. Thurston won the U. S. senatorship at the hands of this session. Governor Holcomb vetoed both the sugar bounty and chicory bounty bill, and both were passed over his veto. The governor approved a resolution designating Nebraska as "treeplanter's state" and this same session named the goldenrod as the state flower.

1896. In January, Senator W. V. Allen introduced a bill in the United States senate providing for a Trans-Mississippi exposition. In March of this year,

Senator Allen declined to be populist candidate for president. But a few months later, another Nebraskan, most unexpectedly to the country in general, won the democratic nomination, and the campaign of 1896, between William McKinley of Ohio, and William Jennings Byran, was one that will never be forgotten by any citizen, over five years of age at that time, as long as he can remember anything. In March, State Engineer R. B. Howell resigned from the state board of irrigation. Eighteen years later he was the gubernatorial candidate of the republican party. The republicans in Nebraska in convention on April 15th, declared for William McKinley for president. May 15th, W. J. Byran and Edward Rosewater debated the question of free silver at Omaha, and on July 3rd, Byran debated this question with John P. Irish at Crete, and one week later, he was nominated for president at Chicago. July 17th, Lincoln had a wild demonstration in honor of its presidential candidate. Byran was nominated by the silver republican national convention at St. Louis on July 24th, and on July 25th, with Watson, by the populist national convention. In November, Nebraska gave her own candidate her electoral vote, but he met defeat in the nation. In the state campaign, the republicans duplicated the conservative Major's nomination of 1894, with that of an alleged railroad adherent, John H. McCall of Dawson County, who was defeated by Governor Holcomb. In the congressional contests, the republicans saved J. B. Strode in the first and David H. Mercer in the second districts; and the fusionists won Samuel Maxwell, over Ross L. Hammond; William F. Stark defeating Eugene J. Hainer in the fourth; Roderick D. Sutherland over William E. Andrews in the fifth, and William L. Greene over Addison E. Cady in the sixth.

**GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1897.** The seventeenth legislature met in twenty-fifth session, January 5th and remained until April 9th, Lieut. Gov. James E. Harris was president of the senate, with Frank T. Ransom, silver republican, Douglas County, as president pro tem., and W. F. Schwind, as secretary. In the house, James N. Gaffin, independent, of Saunders County, was elected to the speakership he had held four years before, and F. D. Eager was chief clerk. This session threatened to pass some of the reform legislation to be forthcoming in a decade or so, such as anti-pass and two cent passenger fare bills, but failed. It did accomplish a stock yard regulatory measure. In January, President Cleveland and his cabinet decided that the Union Pacific Railroad must be sold, and a petition for foreclosure of the government mortgage on that road was filed in the office of clerk of the United States Circuit Court. In February, the Legislature appointed a joint committee to make recommendation concerning defalcations and embezzlement by Ex-Treasurer Joseph S. Bartley, who was soon thereafter placed under arrest, as was likewise Ex-State Auditor Eugene Moore. Another conflict in this session arose from the sargent-at-arms and a committee of the house of representatives seizing the ballots from the state canvassing board, and the state supreme court denied a writ of mandamus to compel the canvassing board to continue a recount of the ballots on certain constitutional amendments.

In April George D. Meiklejohn was appointed assistant secretary of war by President McKinley. The Trans-Mississippi exposition was formally dedicated on April 22nd, by laying of the corner-stone of the arch marking the entrance to the grounds. In June the state supreme court decided that the constitutional amendment increasing the number of judges of that court from three to five had not

been adopted by the people. On June 26th, Ex-Treasurer Bartley was sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$303,768.90. On June 29th, another wheel horse of Nebraska republicanism was rewarded, Church Howe being appointed to consul-general post at Apia, Samoa, which post was taken by Judge Osborne of Blair and Howe given a better location at Palermo, Italy. In September Ex-State Auditor Moore pleaded guilty to embezzlement, and on November 30th, was sentenced for eight years in penitentiary. Ex-United States Senator Paddock died in October at his home in Beatrice. Ex-Auditor Gillespie of territorial and state government died in Lincoln on December 19th. December 20th, suit was filed by the state against Bartley and his bondsmen for \$335,000, of school funds lost, and the week later the state sued Omaha National Bank for \$201,884.05 arising out of the Bartley defalcation, and on January 5, 1898 the Supreme Court affirmed the judgement of the lower court in the Bartley case.

1898. In February, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of \$100,000 exposition bonds voted by Douglas County. In February, the Supreme Court reversed the conviction of Ex-Auditor Moore and he was released. In the same month, the bondsman in the Bartley case won a verdict, and an indictment was returned by a grand jury against Moore on another matter.

*Nebraska in the Spanish-American War.* In this year the Spanish-American war broke out, and on April 25th, Nebraska was called upon to furnish two regiments of infantry. The First and Second Nebraska regiments of national guard were ordered mustered in at Lincoln at once.

On May 14th, Governor Holcomb proclaimed the Trans-Mississippi exposition opening day, June 1st, a public holiday. On May 16th, the First Nebraska regiment entrained for the Philippines. This regiment went into its Philippines camp, July 17, 1898. It participated in an attack on Manila on August 13th, and took part in numerous other engagements. It was mustered out at San Francisco, August 23, 1899. It had a total enrollment of 1,376. Its colonel was John P. Bratt; its lieutenant colonels were George R. Coulton, Frank D. Eager and Majors John M. Stotsenburg, H. B. Mulford, Fred A. Williams, Wallace C. Taylor and J. N. Kilian. The second Nebraska entered into service in April, 1898, and remained until mustered out on October 24, 1898. It was ordered to Chickamauga Park, Georgia, and lost twenty-six by death and eight by accident and was denied actual fighting service. Col. C. J. Bills was commanding, with Emil Olson, lieutenant colonel and as Majors William S. Mapes and Ernest H. Tracy. It has enrolled a total of forty-six officers and 1,366 enlisted men. The third Nebraska was organized with Col William Jennings Bryan at its head. On July 13, 1898, it went to Jacksonville, Florida, and thence to Havana, Cuba. In April, 1899, it came back to Augusta, Georgia, and was mustered out. Victor Vitquain and John H. McClay were Lieut. Cols. and Majors were Conrad F. Scharman and Harry S. Dungan. Troop K of Milford, under Capt. Jacob H. Culver, organized as Troop A, Cavalry went to Chickamauga, and was mustered out in September, 1898.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition was successfully conducted during the balance of 1898, and held over until 1899. The executive committee who so ably assisted President Gurdon W. Wattles in the successful accomplishment of this venture, were Z. T. Lindsay, Edward Rosewater, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, E. E. Bruce, A. J. Reed, F. P. Kirkendall and W. N. Babcock. This wonderful show contributed very much toward advertising Nebraska most thoroughly to the entire nation and even

the world. In June, the supreme court reaffirmed the Bartley conviction, and in July, he started to serve his twenty year sentence. The state campaign was not entirely lost sight of in this war and exposition year, and the populists, democrats and silver republicans "fused" upon the nomination of William A. Poynter as governor, and in the fall election he defeated Monroe L. Hayward for governor.

GOVERNOR POYNTER'S ADMINISTRATION, 1899. The Legislature which met this year saw the return of the republicans to power in legislative halls. With Lieut. Gov. E. A. Gilbert of York as presiding officer of the senate, Adolph R. Talbot of Lincoln was president pro tem., and Alpha Morgan, republican, Broken Bow, secretary; and in the house, Paul F. Clark of Lancaster County, was speaker, with John Wall, of Arcadia, Valley County, as chief clerk. Hayward, defeated for governor, was elected United States senator, but died on December 5, 1899, without qualifying. Charles E. Magoon, another republican faithful of Nebraska, was appointed in January, solicitor for customs and insular division of the war department at Washington. Governor Poynter vetoed a bill passed in this session providing for Supreme Court commission, and signed a bill locating the state fair at Lincoln. Col. John M. Stotsenburg of First Nebraska Volunteers was killed on April 23rd, in a charge upon the Filipinos at Quingua, and on May 28 his body lay in State in the State Senate chamber. In July, 1899, a jury in the case of the State v. the bondsmen of Ex-State Treasurer Bartley returned a verdict of \$616,382.43 against the bondsmen, releasing Mrs. Fitzgerald from her liability. The First Nebraska regiment returned to San Francisco on July 29th, with the record of having lost more men (sixty-two in all) in the Philippine campaign than any other regiment, except one, of regulars. In September, the \$600,000 Bartley bondsmen judgement was appealed. On November 1st, Ex-Governor Alvin Saunders died at his home in Omaha. Following the death of Senator Hayward, on December 5th, Governor Poynter appointed Ex-Senator W. V. Allen as United States Senator until the Legislature should elect a successor. In December, the State Supreme Court reversed and remanded for further trial the Bartley bondsmen case, and also the suit against the Omaha National Bank. Petitions for the release of Bartley were commencing to circulate, and early in January, 1900, the Supreme Court decided that the state could recover from insurance companies the fees paid Ex-Auditor Moore and retained by him, in amount of \$23,000.

1900. In March, the State Supreme Court granted a rehearing in the Bartley bondsmen case, and the state in that month, by decision of Judge Baker, lost its \$200,000 suit against the Omaha National Bank. Politics in this year did not reach the height of fervor they had in 1896, but Nebraska again had a presidential candidate. W. J. Bryan was for the second time nominated by the democratic party, but as he was running against President McKinley, the handicap was greater. The issue had changed from free silver, 16 to 1, to Imperialism. The electoral vote of Nebraska was switched to McKinley by a majority of approximately 8,000. Governor Poynter polled a vote of 113,018 but his opponent, Charles H. Dietrich, of Hastings bested him a few hundreds, with a vote of 113,879. The fusionists retained four districts on congressional elections, electing John S. Robinson, third, William L. Stark, fourth; Ashton C. Shallenberger, fifth and William Neville, sixth, but Elmer J. Burkett, first and David H. Mercer second, republicans, won. In October of this year, Edward Rosewater, of the Bee, and Gilbert M. Hitchcock, of the World-Herald had held a very interesting joint debate on the issues of the

day. On December 18th, the kidnaping of a son of Edward Cudahy, the millionaire Omaha packer, by Pat Crowe, with a payment of \$25,000 ransom money was an event that became noteworthy in the criminal annals of the state.

GOVERNORS DIETRICH-SAVAGE ADMINISTRATIONS. 1901. In January of this year, W. J. Bryan began the publication of a weekly paper, "The Commoner," and in February, Judge Samuel Maxwell died at his home in Fremont. He had been a member of the territorial Legislature, the first constitutional conventions, 1864-1871; first State Legislature, served the longest term of any Nebraska state jurist on her Supreme Court and served in Congress. The nineteenth Legislature, in twenty-seventh session met in January of this year. J. C. F. McKesson was secretary of senate and John Wall chief clerk of the house. Its main feature was one of the most picturesque senatorial contests ever staged in Nebraska. David E. Thompson, of Lincoln, afterwards Ambassador to Mexico, had for more than a year been leveling his enemies and corraling his friends and building fences for this contest and started out as the most formidable candidate. His strength at one point arose to 50 votes; six short of success in the republican caucus, and while he was forced to withdraw on March 28th, he still had strength enough to dictate the final course. The democrats or fusionists were backing Senator William V. Allen, incumbent of the term left vacant by Senator Hayward's death with fifty-seven votes, and William H. Thompson, for the full term, with fifty-eight votes. A switch gave Gilbert M. Hitchcock fifty-seven votes at one time. Edward Rosewater held a block of 14 to 16 votes most of the time, which grew to thirty-two on the fifty-third ballot. The final outcome was the withdrawal of D. E. Thompson, and the election of Governor Dietrich to the unexpired Hayward term. For the full term, Joseph H. Millard, a very prominent banker of Omaha, was chosen. So upon May 1st, Lieut.-Gov. Ezra P. Savage of Custer County became governor, when Governor Dietrich assumed the senatorship. In May, Ex-Secretary of State W. F. Porter was sued by the state for \$1,518.85 of fees under the "cattle brands law." In July of this year, came the event that stirred Nebraska to its depths and made Governor Savage so unpopular that upon his retirement from the executive chair, he removed from the state shortly afterwards—this was the parole of Ex-Treasurer Bartley for sixty days. This stir was deep enough that in 1911, ten years later, it sprang forth in a United States senatorial campaign. On August 27th, Governor Savage made a public statement of his reasons for this action, but on the next day revoked the parole at the request of the republican state convention passed by a vote of 998 to 165. In September of this year, Nebraska with the remainder of the Union suffered a shock from the assassination of President McKinley. In this same month, Judge Smith McPherson, of the Federal Court, declared unconstitutional three laws enacted by the 1897 Legislature, the anti-trust, stock yards rates and the insurance compact laws. In October, the State Supreme Court declared that the democrats and populists must each have a separate circle opposite their names on the ballot, and from the moment of this destruction of fusion, the days of electing populists waned, and the democrats stayed out of office to any great extent for about eight years longer.

1902. On January 1st, Governor Savage, insistent upon having his own way, granted a full pardon to Ex-State Treasurer Bartley. On this day occurred the death of W. H. B. Stout, a member of the 1868 Legislature, who had constructed the State Capitol and penitentiary. Acting Governor (Lieut.-Gov.) C. F. Steele

declared January 29th, McKinley Day, a holiday. Governor Savage did not stand for re-election, withdrawing from the race in April. John H. Mickey, of Polk County, won the republican nomination and was elected over William H. Thompson, of Grand Island, by a vote of 96,471 to 91,116. The republicans won all congressional seats except the second, in which Gilbert M. Hitchcock displaced David H. Mercer; the others were, Burkett, first; and other four districts, John J. McCarthy, Edmund H. Hinshaw, George W. Norris and Moses P. Kinkaid. Two of these six congressmen, Norris and Hitchcock, have been Nebraska's two senators at Washington since 1915, and Kinkaid has served continuously since 1903 from the Sixth district. In June of this year, the State Supreme Court held the Bartley bondsmen were liable for any shortages. G. M. Lambertson died in June.

**GOVERNOR MICKEY'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. 1903.** In January, the State Supreme Court relieved the Omaha National Bank from liability in the Bartley case. The Legislature of this session met, with Lieut. Gov. C. F. Steele again presiding over the senate, and W. H. Harrison, of Grand Island, as president pro tem., and A. R. Keim as secretary and John H. Mockett, Jr., of Lincoln, was speaker of the house and John Wall was again chief clerk. During this session the house subpoenaed Ex-Governor Savage, Ex-Treasurer Bartley and R. J. Clancy to appear and answer questions in an investigation. Governor Mickey approved a resolution which petitioned Congress to pass an Act giving each homesteader 640 acres of land. Ex-Congressman Neville of the Big Sixth had been working on this during his term there, but after he went into office, Congressman Kinkaid took up the matter and stayed with it until its successful passage, in April, 1904, and it became known as the Kinkaid Law, and further than that, the homesteads became called "Kinkaid's" and the homesteaders themselves pretty generally known as "Kinkaiders." President Theodore Roosevelt visited the state in April and again in June. A teamsters' strike in Omaha in May brought forth a visit of the governor and injunctions issued against the strikers by Judge Munger of the Federal Court and against the employers by Judge Dickinson of the State District Court. A settlement of the Bartley case was attempted by the bondsmen in August and rejected by the state but in November, another decision came forth exonerating the bondsmen from liability.

1904. General Victor Vifquain died in January. In February, Senator Dietrich called for an investigation of a senate committee and received exoneration. Three months before then, Judges Munger and Vandeverter had acquitted him of a federal grand jury indictment charging he had received moneys for post office appointments, it developing the transactions took place before he became a senator. In May of this year, after a contest in which Victor Seymour and W. B. Rose had also sought the appointment, H. C. Lindsay of Pawnee County, who had served in the state senate and as chairman of republican state committee received the appointment of clerk of the Supreme Court and State Librarian, which posts he has retained continuously since then. In September, occurred the death of Charles H. Gere, editor and founder of the State Journal. This year turned out to be probably the high tide of republicanism. In national affairs, the republicans won the presidency, and all the congressmen electing E. M. Pollard, John L. Kennedy, and re-electing the other four members. Governor Mickey was re-elected, over George W. Berge, fusionist.

**GOVERNOR MICKEY'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1905.** This Legislature was the

heyday of republicanism. Every member of the senate and all but nine of the hundred representatives were of that faith. Lieut.-Gov. E. G. McGilton of Omaha presided over the senate, with W. H. Jennings, of Thayer County, as president pro tem., and Wm. M. Wheeler as secretary and George L. Rouse, of Hall County, as speaker, and John Wall as chief clerk. This Legislature set about to do some reform work, catching the growing spirit of progressivism sufficiently to lay the foundation for the wonderful record of the next succeeding Legislature. Senator George L. Sheldon, of Cass County, introduced a measure to provide two mills for the payment of the State's two million dollar debt, and his firm, aggressive stand against railroad passes to public officials, and primary elections for public offices, brought him the governorship at the next state election. Elmer J. Burkett won the United States senatorship on the first ballot. Ex-Governor Silas Garber died on January 12th, at his home in Red Cloud. Senator Geo. W. Shreck of York County introduced another bill in this session, destined to grow into a formidable issue, the county option question. Not ready to come to a full dose of progress medicine, the senate killed Senator Sheldon's anti-pass bill, in March. Ex-Governor Furnas died on June 1st, and on July 5th. Ex-Supreme Judge (General) Amasa Cobb died. On October 28th, Ex-President Grover Cleveland gave the principal address at the unveiling of a statue of J. Sterling Morton at Nebraska City. The sugar bounty Act of 1895 was held unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court, in November. On December 6th, the State Supreme Court, released the bondsmen of Ex-Treasurer Bartley, and the state lost over half a million dollars by this decision.

1906. In February, a jury at Omaha acquitted Pat Crowe in the Cudahy kidnaping case, and Judge Sutton denounced the verdict as disgraceful. On March 19th, occurred the death of Ex-Governor and Ex-Senator (General) John M. Thayer. In April, Governor Mickey issued a proclamation asking the people of Nebraska to aid the sufferers from the San Francisco earthquake. The state Campaign of this year showed a decided turn about on the part of the republican party from its conservative stand of the preceding decade. It nominated George L. Sheldon for governor and chose Atty.-Gen. Norris Brown of Kearney for United States senator and promised a full list of progressive measures. Brown triumphed over Edward Rosewater and Joseph H. Millard in the senatorial contest. On September 5th, the citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska generally welcomed W. J. Bryan upon his return home from a trip abroad of over a year in which he had travelled in many countries.

GOVERNOR SHELDON'S ADMINISTRATION. 1907. As the last official act of his administration, Governor Mickey granted a full, unconditional pardon to Mrs. Lena Margaret Lillie, who had been convicted of the murder of her husband, Harvie Lillie, in Fillmore County. Governor Sheldon, who had defeated Ex-Congressman Ashton C. Shallenberger, took office with a thoroughly sympathetic legislature at his call. B. H. Gould was secretary of Senate, and in the House D. M. Nettleton of Clay County, speaker, and Clyde H. Barnard, chief clerk. This legislature broke all records, and has times without number been referred to as the most progressive legislature Nebraska ever enjoyed. It started in on the railroad question, and passed a two cent passenger law, a stringent anti-pass law; a railroad employer's liability law; a terminal railway taxation law; mileage book law; a minimum freight rate law, express regulation law, and then delved into general subjects, and passed the direct primary law,



under which the first primary election in Nebraska was held September 3, 1907. It passed a pure food law, and an anti-lobbying law, and fully met the wishes of the reform governor who posted a chart of the platform upon the wall of his office and checked off each pledge as it was redeemed. One law of this session, that prohibiting brewers from having a financial interest in saloons, furthered an alignment of the liquor interests with the democrats in the next election. Some of the other pieces of legislation named above also aroused the bitter antagonism of various political leaders and strong interests, and the combination of these factors served to reward Governor Sheldon with defeat at the next election. In February, 1907, Thomas C. Munger, a faithful republican wheelhorse, was appointed judge of the new second United States District Court, of Nebraska. In June, Attorney-General W. T. Thompson filed suits in the state supreme court to restrain the railroads from enjoining the two-cent fare, maximum freight rates, anti-free pass laws, and defying the order of the newly created railway commission, established by a constitutional amendment carried at the election of 1906. A similar injunction soon followed to interfere with the express companies charging higher rates than those prescribed by the new law, and they countered with an attempt at injunction, but Judge Munger denied them an injunction against the railway commission and the Sibley Act. A long litigation also ensued over the grain rate law. In November of this year, W. J. Bryan announced in his Commoner that if the rank and file of the party demanded it, he would make a third race for the presidency.

1908. The republicans of the state very early in the year began to express their preference for Secretary Taft for President. In February, Ross L. Hammond, a strong party worker, and editor at Fremont, was appointed collector of internal revenue. A national corn-show was projected and very successfully held at Omaha. On May 10th the first celebration of "Mothers Day" was held in Nebraska, an idea promoted and successfully projected by Senator Burkett of this state. During June tornadoes visited Kearney, Franklin, Geneva, Fairbury and Fairfield, and soon after that a series of troublesome floods ensued. W. J. Bryan was named on the first ballot for the democratic presidential nomination, at Denver, on July 9th. John W. Kern, of Indiana, his running-mate, called upon him three days later at Fairview. At the state conventions, the republicans turned down a plank providing for a guarantee of bank deposits, but the democrats on the same day, in their convention espoused this issue. On Sept. 30th, William Howard Taft, republican nominee for president, spoke in Lincoln. Bryan carried the state of Nebraska and received its electoral vote, but received a decisive defeat in the nation. Ashton C. Shallenberger turned the tables this time, and defeated Governor Sheldon. By virtue of a constitutional amendment enlarging the supreme court to seven members, Governor Sheldon appointed four new judges, Jacob Fawcett, J. L. Root and W. B. Rose, who took office and Ex-Chief Justice John J. Sullivan, who reconsidered and after one day's service, declined, and James R. Dean was appointed in his stead. On Dec. 30th occurred the death of Daniel Freeman at Beatrice, who had been the first homesteader in the nation, under the law of 1862.

GOVERNOR SHALLENBERGER'S ADMINISTRATION. 1909. Taking office as the second democratic governor of the state, Governor Shallenberger had a democratic Legislature to work with him. Lient. Gov. M. R. Hopewell, again presided over the Senate with Wm. H. Smith as secretary of Senate and with George W. Tibbets, democrat, of Hastings, as president pro tem., and as speaker of the House

Charles W. Pool, democrat, of Tecumseh and Trennor Cone as chief clerk. This legislature attempted to recanvass the vote on the amendment enlarging the membership of the supreme court, and under this action, Governor Shallenberger made another set of appointments to the supreme court, retaining Judges Fawcett and Root, but displacing Judges Rose and Dean with John J. Sullivan and Silas A. Holcomb, former members of that court, but the latter resigned, and W. D. Oldham of Kearney took his claim, but in the litigation that ensued, Judges Rose and Dean retained their seats on the high bench. In this session of the Legislature, a bitter discussion ensued over the acceptance of the "Carnegie Pension Fund" for university professors, which the Senate endorsed, but the House killed. A bank guaranty of deposits law was passed at this session. The "Oregon plan" of expressing a preference for United States Senators, in the direct primary, and taking this troublesome question out of the legislative hall, was adopted in Nebraska. The Senate killed the county option bill, and the House killed a daylight saloon proposal, but the real sensation of this session came in its closing hours, when Representative Victor E. Wilson of Polk County slipped into an innocent measure that had been passed to prevent saloons opening on primary day, a provision that no saloons in Nebraska could open before 7 A. M., and must close at 8 P. M. This provision slipped into enactment that night, and for the next three days, a bedlam ensued around the state capitol, besieging Governor Shallenberger to veto or sign the measure. On April 5th, immediately following his appeal to the governor to sign the same, Ex-Governor Poynter was stricken in the executive offices and died a few moments later. On April 6th, four days after its passage, the governor signed the "Daylight Saloon" measure, and thereby, like his predecessor, Governor Sheldon, incurred the displeasure of powerful liquor interests, that rewarded him with defeat for a re-nomination in 1910. In May, Ex-Governor and Ex-Supreme Justice Lorenzo Crouse died at his home in Omaha. In June of this year, sculptor Daniel C. French was chosen to design the statue of Abraham Lincoln which graces the capitol grounds. In June, Judge Cornish held the Donohoe non-partisan judiciary law invalid, and the affirmance of this by the supreme court held the election of its members into the partisan field for five years longer.

1910. On January 14th, occurred the death of Judge William Gaslin at his home in Alma. Judge Gaslin was a pioneer judge and a very original character. This year saw numerous conventions assembled and association formed fostering various movements, such as the formation of the Nebraska League of Municipalities; state baseball league; direct legislation league; brotherhood of threshermen; county option convention; laymen's missionary convention; Nebraska Conservation Convention, second in the union, following Minnesota. W. J. Bryan attempted to promote sentiment for calling a special session of the Legislature to formulate an initiative and referendum law, but Governor Shallenberger refused to call the same. On June 2d, Ex-Gov. John H. Mickey died at his home in Osceola. At the state conventions on July 26th, the republicans adopted county option, but the democrats not only refused to endorse county option, but the more conservative elements of the party undertook to give W. J. Bryan a first-class steam rolling. The Bryan faction favored county option, the Dahlman delegation favored local option. The result was a plank opposing making any plan a party creed. The republicans saw in this first defeat of Bryan in a democratic convention in seventeen years and in the growing prohibitory sentiment, an opportunity, so taking advantage of the

"open primary" law then in force, cast ballots on democratic race for governor, and assisted in nominating Mayor James C. Dahlman, of Omaha, over Governor Shallenberger, and themselves defeated Addison E. Cady of St. Paul, with State Sen. Chester H. Aldrich, of Polk County. The republican state ticket won, although the democratic candidate for secretary of state, Charles W. Pool, came within 100 votes of equalling Addison Wait. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, for United States Senator received 122,517 votes against 102,861 for Sen. E. J. Burkett. The democrats saved both houses of the legislature. W. J. Bryan had openly refused to support Dahlman for governor, and Aldrich won by 16,000 majority. The senatorial campaign had been enlivened by charges which Edgar Howard of Columbus had made that G. M. Hitchcock had been a beneficiary of the Bartley shortage of state funds. Atty.-Gen. W. T. Thompson resigned on October 28th to accept the appointment as solicitor-general of the U. S. Treasury Department, and Governor Shallenberger appointed Arthur F. Mullen, as attorney-general. W. H. Cowgill, democratic member of the state railway commission, died on October 16th, and the governor appointed his private secretary, W. J. Furse, to this vacancy.

**GOVERNOR ALDRICH'S ADMINISTRATION.** 1911. The twenty-fourth Legislature, in thirty-second session met on January 3, 1911. Lieut. Gov. John H. Morehead, the first of Nebraska's Senate presidents pro tem. governors to later become an acting lieutenant governor and then governor by election, held full presidency of the Senate, after the death of Lieutenant Governor Hopewell on May 5th. Wm. H. Smith was secretary of Senate, John Kuhl, democrat, Wayne, was speaker of the House, and Henry Richmond, chief clerk. Gilbert M. Hitchcock was Nebraska's first U. S. Senator to receive his election at the hands of the Legislature, as a formal ratification of the people's direct vote. The organization of this session was very difficult, as the county option question was a bitter bone of contention. A county option license bill was defeated in the House, by two votes, and in the Senate by a margin of one vote. The county option agitation, coupled with the fact that Lincoln had voted to abolish saloons, brought forth a formidable county removal agitation in this session, which resulted in Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, Broken Bow and other central towns inviting the capital to take Horace Greeley's advice and move westward, but this proved to be the last strong movement on this question. The Senate voted the Ollis bill to place the stock yards under the jurisdiction of the railroad commission; and also passed an initiative and referendum measure. A commission plan of government bill for towns over 5,000 was enacted at this session. In October, President Taft visited Nebraska. Albinus Xanee, fourth governor of the state, died on December 6th at Chicago.

1912. On February 9, notice was received of the death of Prof. Samuel Aughey, at Spokane, Washington. He was a professor in Nebraska University, 1871-1884, and it is upon the authority of his research that much of the chapters on geology and early natural features of the state, in this work, are based. As the presidential primary was now set for April, so the delegates to national convention could be elected at that primary, national politics formulated very early. In February, a Harmon club was formed at Fremont to promote the candidacy of Judson Harmon of Ohio for the democratic nomination, and C. M. Gruenther, of Platte County, became chairman of a Harmon campaign movement in this state. Arthur F. Mullen successfully organized a Champ Clark campaign in Nebraska, and there was a formidable Woodrow Wilson organization. Governor Aldrich came

out in February for Theodore Roosevelt. On February 11th, Deputy Warden Edward D. Davis was murdered by Albert Prince, negro convict, at the close of chapel exercises at the state penitentiary. Prince was the last man in Nebraska to be legally executed, until the Cole-Granmer electrocution on Dec. 20, 1920. On March 14, occurred an incident that considerably marred the peaceful repose of the Aldrich administration. Warden James Delahunty, Deputy Warden Wagner, Usher E. G. Hellman were killed, and Guard Thomas J. Doody wounded by three escaping convicts at the state penitentiary, and in the chase that ensued, on March 18th, near Gretna, the three convicts were captured. Roy Blunt, a young farmer, hauling some of the officers, was killed, as was convict "Shorty" Gray. Convict John Dowd committed suicide, and convict Charles Morley surrendered and was later sentenced to life imprisonment. This uprising was made an issue in that year's gubernatorial campaign. In April, Senator Robert M. LaFollette came to Nebraska for five days' campaign tour in behalf of his candidacy for the republican presidential nomination. In July, W. J. Bryan made the fight of his life, up to that time, in the democratic national convention, and materially influenced the nomination of Woodrow Wilson for the presidency. The Bryan forces controlled the democratic state convention, and the Taft forces bolted the regular republican state convention, and organized their own separate convention, adopted their own platform, and made their own separate campaign, electing Frank M. Currie, of Broken Bow, as their state chairman, while the Roosevelt, or progressive republicans, chose Frank P. Corrick, of Lincoln, as their state chairman. John H. Morehead, democratic candidate for governor extensively toured the state, but refused a challenge of a joint debate with Governor Aldrich, his opponent. Governor Hiram W. Johnson, of California, progressive candidate for vice president, on the ticket with Theodore Roosevelt, delivered an address on September 3d, at the state fair. A legal effort was made by the Taft state republicans to oust the Roosevelt electoral slate from the ballot, but that failed. Theodore Roosevelt came into the state to speak on September 20th, and Woodrow Wilson came on October 5th. The fall election resulted in the election of John H. Morehead, as governor, and in the national election, Woodrow Wilson won. At the fall election of 1911, five amendments to the constitution were adopted by the electorate, providing for the initiative and referendum, holding elections of state officers biennially rather than annually, home rule for cities of the state, a state board of control of public institutions and increasing salaries of legislators from \$300 to \$600 per term.

**GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION. 1913.** When the task came of appointing the new board of control Governor Morehead offered one of these posts to ex-Governor Shallenberger who declined. The final appointments made were District Judge Howard Kennedy, of Omaha; ex-Governor Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow, and Henry Gerdes, of Falls City. The Legislature met at the regular time in January. Lieut.-Gov. Samuel R. McKelvie, Nebraska's first regularly elected lieutenant governor who later won election as governor, presided over the senate, with J. H. Kemp as president pro tem., and Clyde H. Barnard as secretary, and Dr. P. C. Kelley, of Grand Island, as speaker of the house, and Henry Richmond as chief clerk. Congressman George W. Norris was elected United States Senator, the second senator chosen in Nebraska under the Oregon plan. This legislature passed an anti-logrolling bill, turned down the university removal and the house passed a downtown campus bill, appropriated \$100,000 for relief

of tornado sufferers in the terrible disaster of March 23d, which tore up one edge of Omaha and cost over two hundred lives; passed a very comprehensive insurance code; a bill for county ownership of telephones; and finally decided to submit to the people the question of removal of the state university to the "farm campus." In May, Lincoln held its first election under its new commission form of government charter, for five city commissioners. Nebraska again received a cabinet portfolio when William Jennings Bryan was made secretary of state, and in June, Richard L. Metcalfe was appointed governor of Panama Canal Zone. Governor Morehead appointed that old veteran of republican circles, Thomas J. Majors, as a member of the state normal board. This board shortly thereafter became a storm center through its action in removing Dr. A. O. Thomas as principal of Kearney Normal School, but Doctor Thomas the next election won vindication by being elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

1914. The campaign of 1914 was a much more quiet affair than its predecessor of two years before. The democrats renominated Governor Morehead over Richard L. Metcalfe, and the republicans chose R. Beecher Howell, of Omaha, as their standard bearer. This time Governor Morehead was elected, and carried in with him a democratic state ticket, so for the first time in many years the democrats took control of all branches of the state government, except the supreme court, but even in that branch succeeded in electing a chief justice, Judge Conrad Hollenbeck, for twenty-one years district judge in the fifth district. But he only lived two weeks after taking his oath of office. His successor was Andrew M. Morrissey, assistant attorney general, who had theretofore been private secretary to Governor Morehead. The people decisively rejected the university removal proposal.

GOVERNOR MOREHEAD'S SECOND ADMINISTRATION. 1915. This session of the legislature was presided over in the senate by Lient.-Gov. James Pearson, and Philip Kohl was president pro tem., and E. A. Walrath, secretary, and in the house, George Jackson was speaker and G. W. Potts, chief clerk. The important measures enacted by this session were jury commissioner law for Douglas County; some irrigation district measures; new charter provisions for Omaha, including the extension of the commission plan of government to that city; consolidated school district law; and laws for consolidation pertaining to Omaha and her various suburbs being taken into Greater Omaha; The Torrens Land Registration Law; State Budget Law. This remained a very quiet year politically as there was no off-year election even for the minor set of offices.

1916. This year was enlivened by the Mexican troubles reaching a climax that necessitated calling the Nebraska Militia regiments together. Nebraska's Fourth and Fifth Infantry regiments of National Guard troops were called into service on June 18, 1916, and taken to the Mexican border in July. They were kept there for many months patrolling the border and not mustered out until the next February, when it was pretty certain they would be called right back into service very soon. The national campaign lent spirit to the political situation this year. In September, President Woodrow Wilson was the guest of the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben and a great throng gave him a most wonderful ovation. The republican nominee, Charles E. Hughes spoke in the state. The state tickets were headed by Judge A. L. Sutton of Omaha, who won the republican nomination from a field of five candidates, and the democratic nominee was a man, absolutely new in state political circles, Keith Neville, of North Platte, who had been dragged from

political obscurity to defeat Charles W. Bryan at the polls. Neville succeeded in defeating Sutton, and carrying the democratic state ticket, as Wilson secured a majority of practically forty thousand in this state. Gilbert M. Hitchcock was re-elected United States Senator over John L. Kennedy. The predominating issue in the state campaign in 1916 was the prohibitory amendment. This was adopted by a majority of 29,442. It was generally represented throughout this campaign that the adoption of this amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in this state, would not result in such strict laws as to interfere with the keeping of liquors in the home for personal and family usage. But when the Legislature of 1917 came to pass enactments carrying this amendment into effect, the "wets" at first proposed to make the new laws bone dry, so everyone would sicken of prohibition. Then along came the national enactment of the Reed Act prohibiting the shipment of liquor into states that were "dry," so the Legislature took a sudden turnabout and passed a law, not only "bone dry" but with provisions regarding the possession of liquor any place except in one's home, making the Nebraska statute as far reaching as any in the nation. The vote on this amendment in 1916, was as follows:

County	For	Against	County	For	Against
Adams .....	2,555	2,033	Fillmore .....	1,780	1,456
Antelope .....	2,163	1,101	Franklin .....	1,282	918
Arthur .....	221	106	Frontier .....	1,160	573
Banner .....	193	79	Furnas .....	1,725	694
Blaine .....	224	120	Gage .....	3,549	2,576
Boone .....	2,022	1,119	Garden .....	523	253
Box Butte .....	856	503	Garfield .....	486	208
Boyd .....	1,041	559	Gosper .....	560	442
Brown .....	804	431	Grant .....	208	128
Buffalo .....	2,757	1,889	Greeley .....	1,090	713
Burt .....	1,808	858	Hall .....	2,364	2,483
Butler .....	1,378	1,909	Hamilton .....	1,906	1,155
Cass .....	2,591	1,865	Harlan .....	1,290	673
Cedar .....	1,712	1,531	Hayes .....	354	190
Chase .....	551	263	Hitchcock .....	721	321
Cherry .....	1,520	961	Holt .....	1,988	1,437
Cheyenne .....	683	606	Hooker .....	184	107
Clay .....	2,171	1,314	Howard .....	1,226	1,108
Colfax .....	922	1,526	Jefferson .....	2,172	1,513
Cuming .....	991	1,876	Johnson .....	1,218	1,075
Custer .....	3,586	1,672	Kearney .....	1,291	715
Dakota .....	708	796	Keith .....	536	344
Dawes .....	1,071	524	Keya Paha .....	481	198
Dawson .....	1,992	1,120	Kimball .....	378	144
Deuel .....	318	153	Knox .....	2,351	1,632
Dixon .....	1,507	861	Lancaster .....	10,720	5,518
Dodge .....	2,704	2,173	Lincoln .....	2,194	1,183
Douglas .....	14,888	25,389	Logan .....	306	114
Dundy .....	639	187	Loup .....	235	121

County	For	Against	County	For	Against
McPherson .....	215	70	Seward .....	1,548	1,633
Madison .....	2,491	1,991	Sheridan .....	1,000	494
Merrick .....	1,511	893	Sherman .....	1,107	791
Morrill .....	871	328	Sioux .....	615	257
Nance .....	1,231	739	Stanton .....	685	871
Nemaha .....	1,698	1,146	Thayer .....	1,593	1,577
Nuckolls .....	1,978	1,119	Thomas .....	273	94
Otoe .....	2,130	2,211	Thurston .....	1,135	632
Pawnee .....	1,368	921	Valley .....	1,330	817
Perkins .....	352	165	Washington .....	1,280	1,354
Phelps .....	1,755	529	Wayne .....	1,073	998
Pierce .....	902	1,227	Webster .....	1,562	911
Platte .....	1,661	2,467	Wheeler .....	289	156
Polk .....	1,667	859	York .....	2,614	1,417
Red Willow .....	1,492	688			
Richardson .....	2,675	1,881	Total .....	146,574	117,132
Rock .....	576	246			
Saline .....	1,670	2,273	Plurality .....	29,442	.....
Sarpy .....	975	1,119			
Saunders .....	2,388	2,115	Scattering—D., 1.		
Scott's Bluff .....	1,810	577			

GOVERNOR NEVILLE'S ADMINISTRATION. 1917. The Legislature met in January, thirty-seventh session. John Mattes was president pro tem. of senate, with Lieut.-Gov. Edgar Howard presiding and E. A. Walrath, secretary. In the house, Speaker George Jackson and Chief Clerk Geo. W. Potts again officiated. Aside from the strict prohibitory enactments, the other important measures formulated by this session were: very sweeping amendments to the Employers' Liability Act of the session of 1913, known commonly as Workmen's Compensation Law; State Hail Insurance Act; Regulation of Employment Agencies; City Manager Act.

*Semi-Centennial Statehood Celebration.* An interesting event in 1917 was the Semi-Centennial Celebration, when the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Nebraska to statehood, in 1867, was commemorated. President John L. Webster of the State Historical Society was the guiding spirit of this enterprise. Gardon W. Wattles, of Omaha, was chairman of a committee of one hundred prominent and active citizens throughout the state who assisted in making this celebration a success. The first step in the celebration was the pageant at the Ak-Sar-Ben at Omaha, in the fall of 1916, when President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson reviewed the wonderful portrayal of all stages of Nebraska's life. The great celebration held at Lincoln in June, 1917, at which the State University gave a historical pageant, was visited by Theodore Roosevelt, as guest of honor. Local committees, consisting of the county superintendent, mayor, president of women's club and president of commercial clubs for each community worked arduously, and in many cities in the state local celebrations were held. Hon. John D. Haskell of Wakefield, Nebraska, offered in 1916 a prize of \$100 for the best poem suitable for a Nebraska state song. The prize for the words, or poem, went to Rev. W. H. Buss of Fremont, and for the best musical arrangement the \$100 prize was secured

by John Prindle Scott of New York City. The Hymn to Nebraska appears at the beginning of this state historical review. The program of the memorable occasion was as follows:

HALF-CENTURY A STATE

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Detailed Program of the Semi-Centennial Celebration, Lincoln, June 12th, 13th  
and 14th

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*Tuesday, June 12th*

- 8:00 a. m. Opening of Historical Society Museum.  
 10:00 a. m. Daylight Fireworks.  
 10:30 a. m. Band Concerts.  
 2:00 p. m. Auto Races at State Fair Grounds and Band Concerts.  
 2:00 p. m. University Alumni Reunion.  
 General Business Meeting. Annual Report, Chancellor Avery,  
 Alumni Address by Prof. F. R. Philbrick.  
 2:30 p. m. Pioneers Reunions at Auditorium. Hon. S. C. Bassett, Gibbon,  
 presiding. Semi-Centennial Historical Address by Hon. John L.  
 Webster of Omaha. Historical Round Table by Pioneers.  
 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Coliseum.  
 10:00 p. m. Fireworks at State Fair Grounds.

*Wednesday, June 13th*

- 8:00 a. m. Opening Historical Museum.  
 10:00 a. m. Daylight Fireworks.  
 10:00 a. m. University Commencement Parade.  
 10:30 a. m. Commencement Address by Dean Roscoe Pound of Harvard.  
 2:30 p. m. Semi-Centennial Exercises, Capitol Grounds, Semi-Centennial Ad-  
 dress by Gov. Keith Neville, Response by Governors Capper of Kansas,  
 Harding of Iowa, Burnquist of Minnesota, Houx of Wyoming, Gunter  
 of Colorado and others. Open Air Reception to Governors.  
 6:30 p. m. Nebraska Editors' Semi-Centennial Banquet at Commercial Club.  
 8:00 p. m. Reunion of Legislature and State Officers, Capitol.  
 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Grounds, Coliseum.  
 10:00 p. m. Fireworks at State Fair Grounds.

*Thursday, June 14th*

- 8:00 a. m. Opening Historical Museum.  
 8:10 a. m. Arrival Colonel Roosevelt, Burlington Station.  
 10:00 a. m. Band Concerts.  
 10:00 a. m. Elks Flag Ceremony.



- 10:30 a. m. Unveiling portraits of J. Sterling Morton, Charles Bessey, Robert W. Furnas, Isaac Pollard, and R. W. Daniels in Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Fame.
- 2:00 p. m. Great Patriotic Parade Reviewed by Colonel Roosevelt.
- 3:30 p. m. Address by Theodore Roosevelt on "Americanism" followed by informal reception.
- 5:30 p. m. Band concerts and daylight fireworks.
- 8:00 p. m. Pageant of Nebraska at State Fair Grounds Coliseum, Colonel Roosevelt the guest of the evening.

*Nebraska in the World War.* A greater part of Governor Neville's administration was devoted to tasks that arose from the part Nebraska was called upon to play in the Great World War. This terrible conflict had been raging since 1914, when on August 1st, the world embroiled itself into a conflict that eventually swallowed almost the entire roster of nations, directly or indirectly, and more than two dozen were in actual fighting at a time. But upon April 2, 1917, when the President's message to congress called for a declaration of war, which was forthcoming on April 6th, Nebraska got immediately into the task. Her National Guard regiments were called back into federal service in July, 1917. The governor of the state fostered the enlistment and organization of a third regiment, the Seventh Nebraska, and tendered his resignation, to take effect upon his being mustered in as colonel of the new regiment. The Fourth Nebraska went forth under command of Col. W. E. Baehr, the Fifth under the command of Col. H. J. Paul, and the Sixth with Phillip L. Hall, formerly adjutant general of the state, as colonel. These regiments went to the training camps; were put into the mill with other national guard regiments; and through the policy pursued by the War Department toward the National Guard, torn apart, their identity largely destroyed, their officers scattered, and some of them left at Camp Deming, New Mexico, practically the entire time. The Seventh never got mustered in, and Governor Neville remained at his executive post.

Nebraska is credited with having had more soldiers and sailors in the service of the country, in proportion to her population, than any other state. Of a total increment of armed forces of 4,034,743 for the entire nation, Nebraska furnished 49,614. Of these 29,807, or 60.08 per cent represented inductions under the registrations into the national army; 14,416, or 29.06 per cent, were enlistments in the army; 4,944, or 9.96 per cent, in the navy, and 447, or .90 per cent in the marine corps. Nebraska's per cent of national army, or "drafted" increment was 60.08 per cent against an average for all states, of 66.10 per cent, and the percentage of enlistments in other branches, for the entire nation, of 33.90 was eclipsed by Nebraska with a percentage of 39.92. Not only in numbers is Nebraska credited with an unusual record, but the report of the provost-marshal general shows that Nebraska accomplished the work of securing the men for military service at a cost of \$4.90 per man, against the national average of \$7.90 per man. In physical rejections, this state stayed below the national average of 8.1 per cent with a showing of 6 per cent.

Nebraska can further show a record of more money subscribed per capita for Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps, and other quotas than any other state. The following table shows the results of Nebraska's war drives:

	Quota	Subscribed	Over Sub- scribed
First Liberty Loan.....	\$ 18,000,000	\$ 18,206,750	1%
Second Liberty Loan.....	29,640,000	33,317,200	8%
Third Liberty Loan.....	31,942,800	50,684,850	58%
Fourth Liberty Loan....	68,350,000	71,000,000	4%
War Savings Stamps....	25,940,120	32,000,000	23%
United War Work.....	2,000,000	2,600,000	30%
Y. M. C. A.....	250,000	560,302	124%
First Red Cross Fund...	700,000	1,020,812	45%
Second Red Cross Fund..	800,000	2,300,000	188%
Knights of Columbus....	40,000	225,000	462%
Armenian Relief .....	250,000	265,000	6%
Smileage Book Campaign.	10,000	16,470	65%
Y. W. C. A.....	no quota	58,505	
Miscellaneous .....	165,000	240,000	45%
Total .....	\$178,087,920	\$212,494,000	19%

Nebraska was the first state in the Union to go over the top on the war savings campaign, and the only state to accomplish this task on the first date set, March 22d. This scheme had been figured out by a group of eastern financiers, and Frank A. Vanderlip of the National City Bank of New York City placed at the head of this campaign. But a little group of men in Seward County, headed by W. H. Brokaw, later director of farm bureaus in Nebraska, in devising a way to meet the quota of their county took Mr. Brokaw's suggestion that a meeting be held simultaneously in every school district in the county on one appointed day. In this way Seward County so promptly raised its quota, that State Director Ward M. Burgess of Omaha, investigated, applied that plan to the state and raised Nebraska's quota on March 22d; and this action resulted in another date being set for every other state in the Union, and Mr. Burgess being called to direct the national campaign.

A state council of defense was appointed by Governor Neville and this body of men worked incessantly for many months. Robert M. Joyce of Lincoln was chairman. Hon. George A. Coupland worked on the problem of increasing the production on farms; Hon. Richard L. Metcalfe, H. E. Gooch, Miss Sarka B. Hrbkeva worked faithfully on Americanization problems. Gen. George H. Harries of Omaha, George O. Brophy, Dr. E. O. Weber of Wahoo, Chas. A. McCloid, York, representing financial interests; T. P. Reynolds of Omaha, representing labor interests; State Engineer George E. Johnson and Adj.-Gen. P. L. Hall, Jr.

1918. The continuance of the war work was the main task of the second year of the Neville administration. A special session of the Legislature was called to pass laws forbidding the teaching of German and European languages in the public schools below the high school; to pass espionage and sabotage laws; and other war measures. The Council of Defense inaugurated a vigorous campaign against certain elements of people in the state, and prosecutions of the Nonpartisan League were carried on with great vigor. The anger of these aroused elements throughout

the state, the antagonism of certain elements against the party in power, and a sudden turn just before election caused by an appeal by President Wilson to elect a democratic congress and intimating that to vote for a republican candidate was an act of disloyalty, swept the state into the republican column at the fall election. Ex-Governor John H. Morehead, who had won the democratic senatorial nomination against a field of aspirants was defeated by Senator George W. Norris, and Governor Neville was likewise defeated by Samuel R. McKelvie, of Lincoln, who had defeated a field of republican gubernatorial aspirants in the primary.

**GOVERNOR MCKELVIE'S ADMINISTRATION. 1919.** Governor McKelvie came into office, accompanied by a quota of republican state officers and a republican legislature. It opened up with expectations of being the greatest session since 1907. One of the domestic issues urged by Governor McKelvie in his campaign for election was that he would advocate the passage of a civil administrative code, providing for the centralization or crystallization of some twenty state departments, bureaus and commissions, into a gubernatorial cabinet of six secretaries, of finance, trade and commerce, agriculture, labor, public works and public welfare. This measure was contested fiercely, but with the governor's insistence and organization, was enacted into law. It was hauled into the courts, and during the interim between a favorable decision and an appeal, put into force by the governor, who appointed his cabinet, consisting of Philip F. Bross, secretary of finance; J. E. Hart, secretary of trade and commerce, which took over the old banking, insurance and blue sky boards or bureaus, and the fire commission; Leo B. Stuhr, secretary of agriculture, which department took over the old pure food, dairy, oil, hotel bureaus and some of the activities of the old state agricultural department. Geo. E. Johnson, state engineer, who took over that work and the new, increased highways department, and H. H. Antles, secretary of public welfare, which department embraced the old health department and pardon and parole board. This session was presided over in the senate by Lieut.-Gov. P. A. Barrows, and B. K. Bushee, as president pro tem. In the house, Dwight S. Dalbey was speaker and W. F. Hitchcock was chief clerk. This session accomplished some other noteworthy tasks, the most important of which was the projection of a state highway system, with some three millions of dollars per year appropriated to match a federal aid; and in 1919 and 1920, some ten millions of dollars have been spent on building up splendid, permanent highways in Nebraska. This session provided for ways and means of holding a constitutional convention, and the delegates for this convention were elected at a special election in September, 1919.

1920. The Constitutional Convention met in January, 1920, and after considering 366 proposals, submitted to the people forty-one proposals to be voted upon at an election held September 21, 1920, when every one of these forty-one proposals was adopted, a record which has perhaps never been equalled in the nation. The old constitution of 1875 was allowed to remain intact, and only those portions amended or superseded by these new proposals will be made non-effective. The personnel of this convention and the proposals submitted by it, are as follows:

John Wiltse . . . . .	Falls City	L. A. Varner . . . . .	Sterling
Edgar Ferneau . . . . .	Auburn	Henry R. Cleve . . . . .	Nebraska City
A. J. Weaver . . . . .	Falls City	Ernest M. Pollard . . . . .	Nebawka
Jacob F. Halderman . . . . .	Pawnee City	Wm. H. Pitzer . . . . .	Nebraska City

William Kieck .....	Springfield	R. S. Norval .....	Seward
Jerry Howard .....	Omaha	E. A. Coufal .....	David City
Geo. A. Magney .....	Omaha	E. J. Spirk .....	Wilber
Lysle I. Abbott .....	Omaha	J. N. Norton .....	Polk
Chas. F. McLaughlin .....	Omaha	H. V. Price .....	York
Chas. W. Sears .....	Omaha	R. A. Matteson .....	Geneva
R. A. Wilson .....	Omaha	Chas. H. Epperson .....	Fairfield
Geo. E. Norman .....	Omaha	George Landgren .....	Shickley
Anson H. Bigelow .....	Omaha	Arthur M. Hare .....	Aurora
A. J. Donahoe .....	Omaha	George Jackson .....	Nelson
Jos. T. Votava .....	Omaha	H. G. Keeney .....	Cowles
L. J. TePoel .....	Omaha	A. T. Bratton .....	Hastings
Chas. L. Saunders .....	Omaha	J. D. Evans .....	Kenesaw
A. W. Sprick .....	Fontenelle	Emil G. Stolley .....	Grand Island
Herbert Rhoades .....	Tekamah	James G. Kunz .....	Wood River
Harry L. Keefe .....	Walthill	Elmer E. Ross .....	Central City
John D. Haskell .....	Wakefield	R. Wilde .....	Genoa
F. C. Radke .....	Hartington	C. V. Svoboda .....	St. Paul
W. A. Meserve .....	Creighton	Murt M. Sullivan .....	Spalding
Wilbur F. Bryant .....	Hartington	James A. Donahoe .....	O'Neil
H. C. Elwood .....	Creighton	John A. Davies .....	Butte
O. S. Spillman .....	Pierce	Lewis K. Alder .....	Ainsworth
J. G. W. Lewis .....	Wayne	D. E. Strong .....	Ord
A. R. Oleson .....	Wisner	Aaron Wail .....	Loup City
Charles McLeod .....	Stanton	W. J. Taylor .....	Merna
E. S. Cowan .....	Albion	J. D. Ream .....	Broken Bow
M. D. Tyler .....	Norfolk	Nathan P. McDonald .....	Kearney
Charles J. Thielen .....	Humphrey	Fred A. Nye .....	Kearney
I. L. Albert .....	Columbus	I. C. Rankin .....	Minden
M. J. Higgins .....	Schuyler	Albert H. Byrum .....	Bloomington
S. S. Sidner .....	Fremont	George S. Austin .....	Orleans
W. D. Holbrook .....	Ames	Harry Johnson .....	Holdrege
A. L. Ullstrom .....	Memphis	B. F. Butler .....	Cambridge
Emil Fauquet .....	Wahoo	Edward Sughroue .....	Indianola
C. Petrus Peterson .....	Lincoln	George C. Junkin .....	Smithfield
C. C. Flansburg .....	Lincoln	W. M. Stebbins .....	Gothenburg
John M. Stewart .....	Lincoln	Joseph G. Beeler .....	North Platte
Walter L. Anderson .....	Lincoln	Harry Lehman .....	Culbertson
W. A. Selleck .....	Lincoln	P. W. Scott .....	Imperial
C. W. Pugsley .....	Lincoln	Festus Corothers .....	Whitman
Frank Malicky .....	Barneston	Chas. H. Cornell .....	Valentine
Earl M. Marvin .....	Beatrice	James H. H. Hewett .....	Alliance
John Heasty .....	Fairbury	Everett P. Wilson .....	Chadron
Thos. Lahners .....	Belvidere	Thomas C. Osborne .....	Bayard
Wm. Grenber .....	Byron	J. A. Rodman .....	Kimball
Geo. H. Hastings .....	Crete	H. D. Lute .....	Paxton

- No. 1. Authorizes jury, by a five-sixth vote, to give a verdict in civil cases.
- No. 2. Permits legislature to regulate property rights of aliens.
- No. 3. Declares English to be official language and requires common school branches in all schools to be taught therein.
- No. 4. Reduces percentage of signatures to initiative and referendum petitions to conform to increased number of voters since women secured ballot.
- No. 5. Permits large counties to be divided into state senate and house districts.
- No. 6. Permits state senate to be increased from thirty-three to fifty members.
- No. 7. Increases salaries of legislators from \$600 to \$800 for two-year term.
- No. 8. Relates to legislative procedure and intended to save time of sessions and to prevent passage of important bills in closing hours by viva voce vote on conference committee reports.
- No. 9. Prohibits appointment of members of legislature to state offices.
- No. 10. Prohibits raising of salaries of state and county officers during term of office.
- No. 11. Reserves all rights to oil, gas and other minerals in state land sold.
- No. 12. Eliminates obsolete section of no consequence.
- No. 13. Provides for executive budget and takes from governor sole control of pardons, placing it in hands of board.
- No. 14. Creates office of state tax commissioner to have charge of assessment work.
- No. 15. Provides for reorganization of courts of state with object of speeding up work and relieving supreme court of congestion.
- No. 16. Requires vote of five supreme judges to declare law unconstitutional.
- No. 17. Provides for election of supreme court judges by districts.
- No. 18. Gives ballot to women.
- No. 19. Provides soldiers may vote when absent from state on duty.
- No. 20. Authorizes legislature to distribute temporary school fund on any basis of length of school term it may decide.
- No. 21. Prohibits sale of school lands except at public auction.
- No. 22. Provides for election of university regents by districts.
- No. 23. Prohibits state aid to sectarian institutions.
- No. 24. Raises age for reform school inmates from 16 to 18, in order to keep boys under 18 from being sent to penitentiary, as now.
- No. 25. Makes constitutional board of present normal school board.
- No. 26. Rewriting of tax schedules with intent to provide for gathering property that now escapes taxation.
- No. 27. Tax exemption of \$200 worth of household goods to a family.
- No. 28. Clears up ambiguity in existing constitution as to limit of indebtedness for counties.
- No. 29. County boundaries cannot be changed save by vote of all affected.
- No. 30. Requires public utility corporations to report to state railway commission.
- No. 31. Prohibits consolidation of competing utilities without permission of railway commission.
- No. 32. Prohibits payment of dividends by utilities out of any fund save net earnings.

No. 33. Allows Omaha to adopt present charter as home rule charter and relieves legislature of need of legislating for that city alone.

No. 34. Grants greater powers and more flexible control to co-operative companies.

No. 35. Gives users of water for domestic and agricultural purposes priority in streams of state.

No. 36. Retains in public all beneficial rights to water powers of state.

No. 37. Permits regulation as to minimum wages and conditions of employment of women and children in industry.

No. 38. Permits creation of industrial commission to prevent strikes and lockouts and to control profiteering.

No. 39. Provides that amendments to constitution submitted by legislature shall be adopted by a majority voting on the question if the affirmative vote is 35 per cent of total vote cast at election.

No. 40. Raises salaries of state officers, including supreme court judges, until such time as legislature may fix them.

No. 41. Eliminates obsolete sections and provides when amendments go into effect.

The serenity of the McKelvie administration was disturbed somewhat by the practice followed in recent years of "furloughing" prisoners in the state penitentiary; a process neither a pardon nor a parole, but just granting them a vacation, which came to a head and brought down public indignation when one Beryl Kirk, of Omaha, serving the second year of a twenty year sentence for complicity in the killing of Officer Frank Rooney, was "furloughed" during the absence of the governor and lieutenant governor from the state by president pro tem. of senate and acting governor B. K. Busbee. This furlough was secured and then held some fourteen weeks, before presented to the warden, and resulted in an investigation by the Bar Commission at the direction of the State Supreme Court of the actions of State Senator C. Petrus Peterson and republican state chairman Robert W. Devoe, who were members of the law firm that secured this action. Coupled with the pardon of Frank Dinsmore of Buffalo County, serving a life sentence for wife murder, the parole of St. Clair, a bank robber convict; of another prisoner who was released the day he was brought to the penitentiary and the growing number of paroles resulting from the indeterminate sentence law, and the necessity of some sixteen to twenty reprieves for Cole and Grammer, two Howard County murderers under sentence of death for the murder of Mrs. Lulu Vogt at Elba, Nebraska, on July 4, 1917, while those cases were switched back and forth and in and out of innumerable courts, this whole question aroused the state. But despite this situation, with five opponents for the nomination, Governor McKelvie won a renomination from his party in the spring primaries of 1920, and ex-Governor Morehead was selected to oppose him. A convention of farmers' unions, labor unions and non-partisan leaguers met at Grand Island, in May, and nominated Mayor Arthur G. Wray of York for governor; Robert D. Mousel of Cambridge for lieutenant governor and F. L. Bollen of Crofton for attorney general. In the spring primaries the people of Nebraska expressed a vigorous preference for Senator Hiram W. Johnson of California, for the republican nomination for president, which was won at Chicago, by Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio, and in the

democratic circles, ten Bryan delegates, headed by W. J. Bryan, and six Hitchcock delegates went to San Francisco, giving Senator Hitchcock only six from his own state in his quest for the democratic nomination, which on the forty-fourth ballot was won by Gov. James M. Cox of Ohio.

The fall election of 1920 was the first occasion upon which the women of the state exercised the full right of franchise, and the vote of the state was almost doubled, with this added vote and the natural increase. Senator Harding, the republican candidate for president, carried the state by the unprecedented majority of 127,000, and secured a majority in every one of the ninety-three counties of the state, and numerous state officers on the republican ticket had majorities hovering around one hundred thousand. Governor McKelvie was re-elected by a majority of approximately twenty-two thousand over Governor Morehead, who polled about forty thousand more votes than Arthur G. Wray, the independent petition candidate. All six of the republican congressmen were re-elected. The 1921 Legislature had only four democrats among the 100 members of the house and the thirty-three senators were all republicans. The Legislature of 1921, met, confronted by many problems, in the passage of legislative acts to carry out numerous provisions of the new constitution: the first state "budget" submitted to it, a new code of laws on pardons, parole and commutations, a new code of laws upon the blue sky question and other difficult, but pressing legislative questions. Lieut.-Gov. Pelham A. Barrows presided over the Senate with R. S. Norval as President pro tem, and Clyde H. Barnard as Secretary. Walter L. Anderson of Lincoln was speaker and Frank P. Corrick of Lincoln, Chief Clerk of the House. The passage of a new pardon and paroles code, strengthened blue sky code, reapportionment for legislative districts, revenue measure, reassessment of real estate biennially instead of quadrennially, five-sixths jury act, strengthening Simon act requiring teaching of English rather than foreign languages in schools, refusal to authorize sale of school lands, and passage of several bills included in the child welfare commission program were the chief achievements of this session.

#### STATE INSTITUTIONS

Nebraska has well provided for her wards and unfortunates in numerous state institutions. A brief review of these will be given.

Hospitals for the Insane. Up until 1870 Nebraska arranged to send her insane patients to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. From July to December of that year, the Pawnee County jail was used, and then the institution at Lincoln was finished. The hospital at Norfolk was established by act approved March 4, 1885. The state hospital at Hastings was established by act approved March 30, 1887, and now Nebraska has these three well built, splendidly equipped institutions.

The School for the Deaf is located at Omaha, and was established by an act approved February 7, 1867, and a building built in 1871. In 1909, the legislature changed the name of this institution from "Institute for the Deaf and Dumb" to the "Nebraska School for the Deaf." The Institute for the Blind, established in 1875, is located at Nebraska City. The Institute for Feeble Minded Youth was established at Beatrice by an act in 1885. The Industrial School for Boys is located at Kearney, and since this institution was taken charge of some years ago by Hon. R. V. Clark, has been raised to a standard high among institutions of its class.

The Industrial School for Girls is located at Geneva. The citizens of Kearney donated 320 acres of land to secure the former institution, provided for in 1879. The latter school at Geneva was built in 1892. It seems to be a very difficult institution to handle and has had numerous changes in management. There are two soldiers' and sailors' homes. The older and larger was established at Grand Island, by act of 1887 and opened on July 1, 1888. The citizens of Grand Island donated 640 acres of land for this institution, and it receives some federal aid. A branch home was located at Milford, in 1895, upon a site of thirty-five acres leased on annual rental, and the site purchased in 1899. As the number of veterans of Civil war decreases, it is expected to develop these institutions for the use of veterans of the Spanish-American and World wars, and other military services. A Nebraska Industrial Home was established by act of 1887 at Milford for the shelter and protection of penitent women and girls. In 1918, an institution in the nature of a "Remedial Farm" for unfortunate women and girls was established, and located near York. The Legislature of 1906 provided for a "hospital for crippled ruptured and deformed children" to be located at Lincoln on the grounds of the home for the friendless. This institution developed into the Orthopedic Hospital. The Home for Dependent Children is another institution located on the outskirts of Lincoln and was created in 1909, an outgrowth of the work of a private association since 1876. Its function is to receive those children under sixteen, and under the new constitutional amendment of 1920 this will be changed to eighteen, who are neglected, ill-treated or left destitute by parents, and do not come within the orphan class. The Legislature of 1911 established a hospital for tubercular patients, and this was located at Kearney. The State Penitentiary is located at Lincoln.

## STATE OFFICERS

*Governors*

David Butler, 1867, until impeachment in 1871, succeeded by W. H. James, secretary of state.  
 Robert W. Furnas, 1873-1875.  
 Silas Garber, 1875-1879.  
 Albinus Nance, 1879-1883.  
 James W. Dawes, 1883-1887.  
 John M. Thayer, 1887, to January 15, 1891. May 5, 1891, to February 8, 1892.  
 James E. Boyd, January 15, 1891, to May 5, 1891, February 8, 1892-1893.  
 Lorenzo Crouse, 1893-1895.  
 Silas A. Holcomb, 1895-1899.  
 William A. Poynter, 1899-1901.  
 Charles H. Dietrich, January 3, 1901, to May 1, 1901.  
 Ezra P. Savage, May 1, 1901-1903.  
 John H. Mickey, 1903-1907.

George L. Sheldon, 1907-1909.  
 Ashton C. Shallenberger, 1909-1911.  
 Chester H. Aldrich, 1911-1913.  
 John H. Morehead, 1913-1917.  
 Keith Neville, 1917-1919.  
 Samuel R. McKelvie, 1919-1923.

*Lieutenant Governors*

Othman A. Abbott, 1877-1879.  
 Edmund C. Carns, 1879-1883.  
 A. W. Agee, 1883-1885.  
 H. H. Shedd, 1885-1889.  
 Geo. D. Micklejohn, 1889-1891.  
 Thomas J. Majors, 1891-1895.  
 Robert E. Moore, 1895-1897.  
 James E. Harris, 1897-1899.  
 E. A. Gilbert, 1899-1901.  
 C. F. Steele, 1901-1905.  
 Edmund G. McGilton, 1905-1907.  
 M. R. Hopewell, 1907 to May 2, 1911; died May 2, 1911.



John H. Morehead (president pro tem. senate), May 2, 1911-1913.  
 S. R. McKelvie, 1913-1915.  
 James Pearson, 1915-1917.  
 Edgar Howard, 1917-1919.  
 P. A. Barrows, 1919-1923.

*Secretaries of State*

Thomas P. Kennard, February 21, 1867, to January 10, 1871.  
 William H. James, 1871-1873.  
 Acting Governor, June 2, 1871, to January 13, 1873.  
 John J. Gosper, 1873-1875.  
 Bruno Tzschuck, 1875-1879.  
 S. J. Alexander, 1879-1883.  
 Edward P. Roggen, 1883-1887.  
 Gilbert L. Laws, January 6, 1887, to November 20, 1889, when he resigned to fill unexpired term in congress caused by death of James Laird.  
 Benjamin A. Cowdery, November 20, 1889, to January, 1891, vice Laws.  
 John C. Allen, 1891-1895.  
 Joel A. Piper, 1891-1897.  
 William F. Porter, 1897-1901.  
 George W. Marsh, 1901-1905.  
 A. Galusha, 1905-1907.  
 George C. Junkin, 1907-1911.  
 Addison Wait, 1911-1915.  
 Charles W. Pool, 1915-1919.  
 Darius M. Amsberry, 1919-1923.

*State Auditors*

John Gillespie, 1867-1873.  
 Jefferson B. Weston, 1873-1879.  
 F. W. Liedtke, 1879-  
 John Wallichs, November 12, 1880-1885.  
 H. A. Babcock, 1885-1889.  
 Thomas H. Benton, 1889-1893.  
 Eugene Moore, 1893-1897.  
 John F. Cornell, 1897-1901.  
 Charles Weston, 1901-1905.  
 Edward M. Searle, 1905-1909.  
 Silas R. Barton, 1909-1913.

W. B. Howard, 1913-1915.  
 William H. Smith, 1915-1919.  
 George W. Marsh, 1919-1923:

*State Treasurers*

Augustus Kountze, February, 1867-1869.  
 James Sweet, 1869-1871.  
 Henry A. Koenig, 1871-1875.  
 J. C. McBride, 1875-1879.  
 George M. Bartlett, 1879-1883.  
 Philip D. Sturdevant, 1883-1885.  
 Charles H. Willard, 1885-1889.  
 John E. Hill, 1889-1893.  
 Joseph S. Bartley, 1893-1897.  
 John B. Merserve, 1897-1901.  
 William Stuefer, 1901-1903.  
 Peter Mortensen, 1903-1907.  
 L. G. Brian, 1907-1911.  
 Walter A. George, 1911-1915.  
 George E. Hall, 1915-1919.  
 D. B. Cropsy, 1919-1923.

*Commissioners of Public Lands and Buildings*

F. M. Davis, 1877-1881.  
 A. G. Kendall, 1881-1885.  
 Joseph Scott, 1885-1889.  
 John Steen, 1889-1891.  
 A. R. Humphrey, 1891-1895.  
 Henry C. Russell, 1895-1897.  
 Jacob V. Wolfe, 1897-1901.  
 George D. Follmer, 1901-1905.  
 Henry M. Eaton, 1905-1909.  
 E. B. Cowles, 1909-1913.  
 Fred Beckman, 1913-1917.  
 Graut L. Shumway, 1917-1919.  
 Dan Swanson, 1919-1923.

*Attorneys General*

Champion S. Chase, 1867-1869.  
 Seth Robinson, 1869-1871.  
 George H. Roberts, 1871-1873.  
 J. R. Webster, 1873-1875.  
 George H. Roberts, 1875-1879.

C. J. Dilworth, 1879-1883.  
 Isaac Powers, Jr., 1883-1885.  
 William Leese, 1885-1891.  
 George H. Hastings, 1891-1895.  
 Arthur S. Churchill, 1895-1897.  
 Constantine J. Smyth, 1897-1901.  
 Frank N. Prout, 1901-1905.  
 Norris Brown, 1905-1907.  
 William T. Thompson, 1907-1910.  
 Arthur F. Mullen, October 31, 1910, to  
 January 5, 1911, vice Thompson, re-  
 signed.  
 Grant G. Martin, 1911-1915.  
 Willis E. Reed, 1915-1919.  
 Clarence A. Davis, 1919-1923.

*Superintendents of Public Instruction*

S. Dewitt Beals, appointed February 16,  
 1869, to 1871.  
 J. H. McKenzie, 1871-1877.  
 S. R. Thompson, 1877-1881.  
 W. W. W. Jones, 1881-1887.  
 George B. Lane, 1887-1891.  
 A. K. Goudy, 1891-1895.  
 Henry R. Corbett, 1895-1897.  
 William R. Jackson, 1897-1901.  
 William K. Fowler, 1901-1905.  
 Jasper L. McBrien, 1905-1909.  
 E. C. Bishop, 1909-1911.  
 James W. Crabtree, January to October,  
 1911.  
 James E. Delzell, October, 1911-1915.  
 A. O. Thomas, 1915-1917.  
 W. H. Clemmons, 1917.  
 J. M. Matzen, vice Clemmons, deceased,  
 1920; reelected 1920.

*United States Senators*

John M. Thayer, 1868-1871.  
 Thomas W. Tipton, 1867-1875.  
 Phineas W. Hitchcock, 1871-1877.  
 Algernon S. Paddock, 1875-1881, and  
 1887-1893.  
 Alvin Saunders, 1877-1883.  
 C. H. Van Wyck, 1881-1887.  
 Charles F. Manderson, 1883-1895.

John M. Thurston, 1895-1901.  
 William V. Allen, 1893-1899; Decem-  
 ber 13, 1899, to March 28, 1901.  
 Monroe L. Hayward, elected March 8,  
 1899, died December 5, 1899, never  
 qualified.  
 Joseph H. Millard, 1901-1907.  
 Charles H. Dietrich, 1901-1905.  
 Elmer J. Burkett, 1905-1911.  
 Norris Brown, 1907-1913.  
 Gilbert M. Hitchcock, 1911 to date.  
 George W. Norris, 1913 to date.

*Representatives in Congress*  
 Entire state in one district

Turner M. Marquette, March 1-4, 1867.  
 John Taffe, 1867-1873.  
 Lorenzo Cronnse, 1873-1877.  
 Frank Welch, 1877; died 1877.  
 Thomas J. Majors, elected 1878 to fill  
 vacancy.  
 E. K. Valentine, 1879-1883.

First District

A. J. Weaver, 1883-1887.  
 John A. McShane, 1887-1889.  
 W. J. Connell, 1889-1891.  
 W. J. Bryan, 1891-1895.  
 J. B. Strode, 1895-1899.  
 E. J. Burkett, 1899-1905.  
 E. M. Pollard, 1905-1907.  
 John A. Maguire, 1909-1915.  
 C. F. Reavis, 1915-1923.

Second District

James Laird, 1883 to August, 1889.  
 Gilbert L. Laws, vice Laird, 1889 to  
 1891.  
 W. A. McKeighan, 1891-1893.  
 David H. Mercer, 1893-1903.  
 Gilbert M. Hitchcock, 1903-1905; 1907-  
 1911.  
 John L. Kennedy, 1905-1907.  
 C. O. Lobeck, 1911-1919.  
 Albert W. Jefforis, 1919-1923.

## Third District

E. K. Valentine, 1883-1885.  
 G. W. E. Dorsey, 1885-1891.  
 O. M. Kem, 1891-1893.  
 Geo. D. Meiklejohn, 1893-1897.  
 Samuel Maxwell, 1897-1899.  
 John S. Robinson, 1899-1903.  
 J. J. McCarthy, 1903-1907.  
 J. F. Boyd, 1907-1909.  
 James P. Latta, 1909-1913.  
 Dan V. Stephens, 1913-1919.  
 Robert E. Evans, 1919-1923.

## Fourth District

E. J. Hainer, 1893-1897.  
 William L. Stark, 1897-1903.  
 Edmund H. Hinshaw, 1903-1909.

Charles H. Sloan, 1911-1919.  
 M. O. McLaughlin, 1919-1923.

## Fifth District

W. A. McKeighan, 1893-1895.  
 W. E. Andrews, 1895-1897.  
 R. D. Sutherland, 1897-1901.  
 A. C. Shallenberger, 1901-1903.  
 G. W. Norris, 1903-1913.  
 Silas R. Barton, 1913-1917.  
 A. C. Shallenberger, 1917-1919.  
 W. E. Address, 1919-1923.

## Sixth District

O. M. Kem, 1893-1897.  
 William L. Greene, 1899-1901.  
 William Neville, 1901-1903.  
 Moses P. Kinkaid, 1903-1923.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE RAILROADS OF NEBRASKA

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD—WHAT THE ENGINES SAID—THE BURLINGTON SYSTEM  
—RAILROAD BUILDING AND EXTENSION (BY YEARS)—THE STATE RAILWAY COM-  
MISSION—RAILROADS' PALMY POLITICAL DAYS.

#### THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

The father of railroads in this state was the Pacific Railroad project. Whether it is correct as intimated in past records that Jonathan Carver foreshadowed its construction in 1778, or whether in the years that the first railroads in the eastern part of the country were being built, the idea of a railroad to the western coast was being scouted as impracticable, it is realiably credited that Senator Thomas H. Benton, as early as 1825, urged upon Congress the "occupation of Columbia" with a view of forming a "communication for commercial purposes between the Pacific and the Mississippi, and to send lights of science and religion into Eastern Asia." The development of this idea will be carried chronologically as the briefest way to fully cover its evolution into the finest system traversing the western plains.

1835. Rev. Samuel Parker, in his journal of a trip across the continent, recorded an opinion that the mountains presented no insuperable obstacle to a railroad.

1836. The first public meeting to consider the project of a Pacific railway was called by John Plumbe, a civil engineer of Dubuque, Iowa. Editorial mention of such a project appeared in the columns of the *Emigrant, Ann Arbor* (Michigan Territory), February 6, 1832, presumably accreditable to Judge S. W. Dexter. Lewis Gaylord Clarke, in the *Kniekerbocker Magazine*, in 1836, urged such an idea. Jonathan Carver's grandson, Heartwell Carver, was urging it in 1832.

Maj.-Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railway from 1866 to 1870, the period of its most active construction, has narrated the story of "How We Built the Union Pacific Railway" (published in Senate Document No. 447; 61st Congress, Second Session). Stating that interest in the project of a Pacific railway increased from 1836, he continues:

"The explorations of Fremont in 1842 and 1846 brought the attention of Congress, and A. C. Whitney was zealous and efficient in the cause from 1840 to 1850. The first practical measure was Senator Salmon P. Chase's bill, making an appropriation for the exploration of different routes for a Pacific railway in 1853. Numerous bills were introduced in Congress between 1852 and 1860, granting subsidies and lands, and some of them appropriating as large a sum as \$96,000,000 for the construction of the road. One of these bills passed one of the houses of Congress. The results of the explorations ordered by Congress were

printed in eleven large volumes, covering the country between the parallels of latitude thirty-second on the south and forty-ninth on the north, and demonstrating the feasibility of building a Pacific railway, but at a cost on any one of the lines much larger than the Union Pacific and Central Pacific were built for. It is a singular fact that in all of these explorations the most feasible line, in an engineering and commercial point of view, the line with the least obstacles to overcome, of lowest grades and least curvature, was never explored and reported on. Private enterprises explored and developed that line along the forty-second parallel of latitude.

The route was made by the buffalo, next used by the Indians, then by the fur traders, next by the Mormons, and then by the overland immigration to California and Oregon. It was known as the Great Platte Valley Route. On this trail, or close to it, was built the Union and Central Pacific railroads to California, and the Oregon Short Line branch of the Union Pacific to Oregon.

In 1852 Henry Farnum and Thomas C. Durant were building the Mississippi Railroad, a line westward across the state of Iowa as an extension of the Chicago and Rock Island, then terminating at Rock Island, Ill. They desired to end that line at the Missouri River, where the Pacific Railroad following the continent where the forty-second parallel of latitude would commence. Under the direction of Peter A. Dey, who had been a division engineer of the M. & M., in Iowa, I made the first survey across the state of Iowa, and the first reconnoissances and surveys on the Union Pacific for the purpose of determining where the one would end and the other commence, on the Missouri River. I crossed the Missouri River in the fall of 1853 and made our explorations west of the Platte Valley and up it far enough to determine that it would be the route of the Pacific road."

General Dodge goes on in an article on "How We Built the Union Pacific" some forty pages long and from which the compiler of this brief review can take only enough to give the reader an idea of the magnitude of the task, and the difficulties surmounted in securing the selection of the eventual route:

"The times were such that the work on the M. & M. Railway was suspended for some years. Meanwhile I located at Council Bluffs, continuing the explorations under the directions of Messrs. Farnum and Durant and obtaining from voyagers, immigrants, and others all the information I could in regard to the country farther west. There was keen competition at that time for the control of the vast immigration crossing the plains, and Kansas City, Fort Leavenworth (then the government post), St. Joseph and Council Bluffs were points of concentration on the Missouri. The trails from all points converged in the Platte Valley at or near old Fort Kearney, following its waters to the South Pass. A portion of the Kansas City immigration followed the valley of the Arkansas west, and thence through New Mexico. The great bulk of the immigration was finally concentrated at Council Bluffs as the best crossing of the Missouri River. From my explorations and the information I had obtained with the aid of the Mormons and others, I mapped out and made an itinerary of a line from Council Bluffs through to Utah, California and Oregon, giving the camping places for each night, and showing where wood, water and fords of the streams could be found. Distributed broadcast by the local interests of this route the map and itinerary had no small influence in turning the mass of overland immigration to Council Bluffs, where it crossed the Missouri and took the great Platte Valley route. This route

was up that valley to its forks, and then up either the north or south fork to Salt Lake and California by way of the Humboldt, and to Oregon by the way of the Snake and Columbia rivers. This is today the route of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific to California and the Union Pacific to Oregon.

"After collecting all the information we could as to the best route for a railroad to the Pacific, I reported to Messrs. Farnum and Durant, who paid out of their private funds for all of my work.

"In 1854, when Nebraska was organized, we moved to its frontier, continuing the explorations under the patronage of Messrs. Farnum and Durant, and obtaining all valuable information, which was used to concentrate the influence of the different railways east and west of Chicago to the support of the forty-second parallel line."

General Dodge continues:

"In 1861 we discontinued the railroad work because of the Civil war. The passage of the bill of 1862, which made the building of a transcontinental railroad possible, was due primarily to the persistent efforts of Hon. Samuel R. Curtis, a representative in Congress from Iowa, who reported the bill before entering the Union service in 1861. It was then taken up by Hon. James Harlan, of Iowa, who succeeded in obtaining its passage in March, 1862."

In commenting upon how this road obtained its name, General Dodge narrates that various lines proposed had received the names of the "North Route," "Buffalo Trail," "South Route," but that in 1858 a bill was fostered that gave out the name "Union Pacific." One of the arguments advanced for the bill that eventually passed was that the route proposed would tend to hold the people of the Pacific Coast in the Union. He adds:

"Line in advocated its passage and building, not only as a military necessity, but as a means of holding the Pacific Coast to the Union. This bill became a law in 1862, and there is no doubt but what the sentiment that the building of the railroad would hold the Union together gave it the name of the Union Pacific."

General Dodge described the initiation of this work as follows:

"In 1862 the Union Pacific Railway was organized at Chicago, and soon after Mr. Peter A. Dey continued the explorations, and in 1863 he placed parties over the Black Hills and in Salt Lake and over the Wasatch in Utah. In 1863 I was on duty at Corinth when I was called to Washington by Mr. Lincoln, who had met me in 1859 at Council Bluffs and had questioned me very systematically as to the knowledge I had of the western country and the explorations I had made there. Remembering this he called me to Washington to consult with me as to where the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railway should be. I explained to him what my surveys had determined, and he fixed the initial point of the Union Pacific (at Council Bluffs). At this interview with Mr. Lincoln he was very anxious to have the road constructed. It was my opinion then that it could not be constructed unless it was built by the Government, and so I informed Mr. Lincoln. He said that the United States had at that time all it could handle, but it was ready to make any concession and obtain any legislation that private parties who would undertake the work would require.

"I then went to New York City and met Mr. Durant and others connected with the Union Pacific and informed them of what Mr. Lincoln had said. It gave

them new hope and they immediately formulated the amendments to the law of 1862, which was passed in 1864 and enabled them to push the work.

"The ground was broken in Omaha in December of 1863, and in 1864 about \$500,000 was spent in surveying and construction, and in 1865 forty miles was completed to Fremont. Mr. Dey, who had charge of the work as chief engineer, resigned, and stated in his letter that he was giving up the best position in his profession this country had ever offered to any man.

"In May, 1866, I resigned from the army, came to Omaha and took charge of the work as chief engineer, and covered the line with engineering parties from Omaha to California, and pushed our location up the Platte Valley.

"In 1866 we built 260 miles.

"In the winter of 1866 we planned to build the next year 288 miles to Fort Sanders. During 1867 we reached the summit of the Black Hills and wintered at Cheyenne, where the population of nearly 10,000 gathered around us."

John P. Davis, in his history of the Union Pacific Railway, describes the great moment in American railroad history entitled "Done," when, on the morning of May 10, 1869, the Union and Central Pacifics were ready to meet, except about a hundred feet left open between the "ends of the track."

"Early in the day, Leland Stanford, governor of California and president of the Central Pacific arrived with his party from the west; during the forenoon, Vice President Durant and Directors Duff and Dillon of the Union Pacific, with other prominent men, arrived."

Davis describes the final culminating scene:

"The ties were laid, about one hundred feet space left open for rails, and while the coolies from the west laid the rails from one end, the paddies from the east laid them at the other, until they met and joined. The 'last spike' remained to be driven. Telegraphic wires were so connected that each blow of the descending sledge would flash the report to cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Spikes of gold, silver and iron were presented by the officials of Arizona, Nevada, and California, and when the last spike of gold was driven with the sledges of silver by President Stanford and Vice President Durant the word *Done* flashed over the wires. The Central Pacific train back up, and the Union Pacific locomotive, with its train, passed slowly over the point of junction and back again." The story has poetically been told in the lines of Bret Harte, which Mr. Davis quoted in his work:

#### WHAT THE ENGINES SAID

What was it the Engines said,  
Pilots touching—head to head,  
Facing on the single track,  
Half the world behind each back?  
This is what the Engines said,  
Unreported and unread.

With a prefatory screech,  
In a florid western speech,  
Said the Engine from the West,

"I am from Sierra's crest,  
 And, if altitude's a test,  
 Why, I reckon, it's confessed,  
 That I've done my level best."

Said the Engine from the East,  
 "They that work most talk the least,  
 S'pose you whistle down your brakes;  
 What you've done is no great shakes,  
 Pretty fair—but let our meeting  
 Be a different kind of greeting,  
 Let these folks with champagne stuffing,  
 Not their Engines, do the puffing."

"Listen! Where Atlantic beats  
 Shores of snow and summer heats,  
 Where the Indian autumn skies  
 Paint the woods with wampum dyes,  
 I have chased the flying sun,  
 Seeing all he looked upon,  
 Blessing all that he had blest,  
 Nursing in my iron breast  
 All his vivifying heat,  
 All his clouds above my crest;  
 And before my flying feet  
 Every shadow must retreat."

Said the Western Engine "Phew!"  
 And a long, low whistle blew,  
 "Come now, really that's the oddest  
 Talk for one so very modest.  
 You talk of your East! You do?  
 Why, I bring the East to you!  
 All the Orient, all Cathay,  
 Find through me the shortest way;  
 And the sun you follow here  
 Rises in my hemisphere.  
 Really—if one must be rude—  
 Length, my friend, ain't longitude."

Said the Union, "Don't reflect, or  
 I'll run over some director."  
 Said the Central, "I'm Pacific,  
 But, when riled, I'm quite terrific.  
 Yet today we shall not quarrel,  
 Just to show these folks their moral,  
 How two Engines—in their vision—  
 Once have met without collision,"



That is what the Engines said,  
 Unreported and unread;  
 Spoken slightly through the nose,  
 With a whistle at the close.

#### THE BURLINGTON SYSTEM

The Burlington & Missouri River, the second great railroad system of Nebraska in mileage and importance in the early days, has in more recent years, with many of its early subsidiaries, been merged into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company's system.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company was chartered by a special act of the Illinois Legislature, dated February 12, 1849, as the Aurora Branch Railroad Company. It built from Aurora to a connection with the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad (now Chicago & Northwestern) at Turner Junction about twelve miles. It had a track laid with wooden rails faced with strap iron when it opened for business on September 2, 1850. In 1852, it changed its name to Chicago & Aurora Railroad Company. On February 14, 1855, the name was changed to the Chicago Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and the road was extended through Illinois in the next few years. The bridge over the Mississippi at Burlington, Iowa, was opened for traffic on August 13, 1869.

The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company was organized in 1869, with a capital stock of \$7,500,000, and in May, 1871, its capital stock was increased to \$12,000,000. In January, 1873, it was taken over by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, which absorbed its lines east of the Missouri River. It then had a main line from Burlington, Iowa, to a point on the east bank of the Missouri River practically opposite Plattsmouth, Nebraska, and numerous branches. The Burlington & Missouri River Company in Nebraska, which was the name of the company which built the first Nebraska lines of this system, was incorporated May 12, 1869, and the construction of its line from Plattsmouth to Kearney, Nebraska, some one hundred and ninety miles, making connection with the Union Pacific main line, was started in 1870. Lines were then built from Omaha to Plattsmouth, twenty-one miles, where various connections were made. This company was consolidated with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company on July 28, 1880, with 836 miles of railroad in operation then. The extension of this system will appear in the chronological chart of Nebraska's railroad building which follows.

#### RAILROAD BUILDING AND EXTENSION IN NEBRASKA

1862. Nebraska's direct railroad history begins with the passage of the bill by Congress authorizing the building of the Union Pacific Railroad.

1863. December. Ground broken at the initial point fixed by the Government, "on the western boundary of the State of Iowa," opposite Omaha. Ground broken at Omaha on that day at the northern end of the levee, donated by the city to the railway company.

1864. Road placed under contract for a hundred miles out of Omaha and sur-

veys ran to 100th Meridian (in Dawson County). A change in route was applied for at this time.

1865. On July 10th, first rail laid at Omaha, on Union Pacific, and during the winter of 1865-66, eighty miles of track was laid, reaching to Columbus.

1866. By March 15, sixty miles of track was ready for use, and by July, 1866, 135 miles was ready.

1867. The Union Pacific pushed its line on through the State of Nebraska.

1868. Passenger fare on the Union Pacific was reduced from ten to seven and a half cents per mile; In this year, stock was subscribed for the Omaha & Southwestern Railway, the second railway project in the state, and which built a line sixty-eight miles long from Omaha to Lincoln. This later became a part of the Burlington system. Its first officers were men prominent in Nebraska financial circles: S. S. Caldwell, president; Henry T. Clarke, vice president; Enos Lowe, treasurer, and A. S. Paddock, secretary, and the directors were George W. Frost, Clinton Briggs, John Y. Clopper, Ezra Millard, Jonas Gise, and Alvin Saunders. Ground was broken at Nebraska City for a proposed enterprise that later developed into the Midland Pacific.

1869. This year saw the completion of the Union Pacific, at Promontory, Utah, far beyond the Nebraska border, but of far-reaching effect for Nebraska, as it gave a Pacific outlet to rail transportation that passed through this state. On February 15th the legislature of Nebraska appropriated 2,000 acres per mile to any railroad which would complete ten miles of its route within one year, the grant in no case to exceed 100,000 acres. This brought about a group of railroad movements in this and the few succeeding years. In October James E. Boyd and a group of financial assistants around Omaha proposed to secure twenty men who would each subscribe \$10,000 to an Omaha and Northwestern Railroad project to build some two hundred and fifty miles into the Elkhorn and Niobrara valleys. This resulted in the incorporation in November of the "Northwestern," with J. E. Boyd, Ezra and J. H. Millard, J. A. Horbach, J. S. McCormick, H. Kountze, C. H. Downs, J. A. Morrow, Q. A. Paxton and A. Kountze, as incorporators.

In June of this year ground was broken at Lincoln for the Burlington. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley (later a part of the Northwestern system) built its first ten miles from near Blair.

1870. This year saw the completion of the Omaha & Southwestern to Lincoln; the extension of the Burlington on to Kearney was started, and twenty-six and one-half miles of the Northwestern was built to Desoto. The Burlington ran its first train into Lincoln in July, and also completed its line to Nebraska City. In October Lancaster County voted bonds to aid the Omaha & Southwestern and the proposed Midland Pacific. Atchison & Nebraska Railroad Company was organized in this year.

1871. This year saw the organization of the Midland Pacific Railroad. It built in this year fifty-eight miles, from Nebraska City to Lincoln. This line a few years later was sold under foreclosure, and its operation carried along until in 1876 it became part of the Burlington system. Indicative of the swift sales of railroad land, it might be noted that in April of this year the Union Pacific sold over sixteen thousand acres at an average of \$1.13 per acre, and the Burlington sold some eight thousand five hundred acres at an average of \$8.36 per acre. The Northwestern built from Fremont to Wisner, fifty-one miles. The B. & M.

had its trains running by July as far west as Crete, Saline County. St. Joseph & Denver Railroad, now St. Joseph & Grand Island, built into the state as far as Hastings in this year.

1872. The Atchison & Nebraska Company completed its line from Atchison, Kan., to Lincoln, Neb., 148 miles in this year. This line later became a part of the Burlington system, coming up through Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson, Gage and Lancaster counties. In September of this year the B. & M. brought in on one train 720 passengers, 600 being from Iowa. This is indicative of the flow of immigration from other states that Nebraska was then receiving. On March 13th a test of the capacity of the new bridge at Omaha over the Missouri River was made. It had taken three years from the time the contract was entered into until this bridge was finished. The Burlington line to Kearney Junction, to make junction with the Union Pacific, was completed on September 18th. The roadbed of the Northwestern was graded from Herman, where it had reached completion in October, 1871, to Tekamah, though completion of this block of road was delayed until 1876.

1873. The great Easter storm of this year put all Nebraska railroads to the "acid test" of their capacity to restore operations when a practically complete annihilation of facilities had taken place. Proposal was made in this year to project a line from Lincoln to St. Paul, Minn., extending the Sioux City & Pacific Railroad in Nebraska on to Lincoln. This latter named road was built down the east side of the Missouri River from Sioux City to a point about two miles west of Missouri Valley Junction, Iowa, where it connected with the Chicago & Northwestern main line from Chicago to Council Bluffs, Iowa, bending westward, crossing the Missouri River by ferry, about three miles east of the City of Blair, and thence westward to Fremont. There it connected with the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley, projected in 1869.

1874. The St. Joseph & Denver Railroad passed into hands of a receiver, who operated it until March, 1877, when it was reorganized as the St. Joseph & Denver City, with the Kansas part as the St. Joseph & Pacific, and later the Nebraska part as the Kansas & Nebraska Railroad and later yet the whole line as St. Joseph & Grand Island.

The Midland Pacific extended its line from Lincoln to Seward, completing this task in 1874. It went into foreclosure, was reorganized as the Nebraska Railway, and so operated until 1876, when it went into the hands of the B. & M. Company.

1875. The consolidation of the Midland Pacific and Brownville & Fort Kearney took place in this year, as above mentioned.

1876. The B. & M. extended the old Midland Pacific line, which it had just taken over, from Seward on toward York, arriving at that place in 1877. The Omaha & Republican Valley, a branch of the Union Pacific extending from Valley station, in western Douglas County, toward Osceola, was started. Wahoo, Valparaiso, David City and Osceola are on this line. The old Omaha & Northwestern, now known as the Omaha & Northern Nebraska Railway, built into Tekamah from Herman this year. The Covington, Columbus & Black Hills Railroad was built in 1876-7, and is twenty-six miles in length, from Sioux City to Ponca.

1877. The B. & M. moved the shops of the transferred Midland & Pacific to their own yards in Lincoln. The Union Pacific, because Douglas County instituted proceedings to repudiate a bond issue of \$250,000 theretofore voted, threatened the removal of its machine shops west, but this never materialized. The Union Pacific built from Valparaiso to David City, Summit to Lane, and Valley to Lincoln.

1878. Foreclosure of the Omaha & Northwestern brought about the organization of the Omaha & Northern Nebraska Railroad, to buy the former in and reorganize it.

1879. The Omaha & Republican Valley completed its branch to Osceola. The St. Joseph & Denver City built into Grand Island from Hastings; the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley reached Stanton, which remained the terminus for some time. The Atchison & Nebraska was extended from Lincoln to Columbus. The Union Pacific built from David City to the west Butler line. The Pacific Express Company was organized out of the express department of the Union Pacific Company. The Union Pacific and Burlington started a freight rate war. The F. E. & M. V. built from Wisner to Oakdale.

1880. The B. & M. extended its line to Central City and became the first company to cross the tracks of the Union Pacific, reaching that town about March; in May it reached Columbus with a line. The leasing of the Atchison & Nebraska and the Lincoln and Northwestern railroads was ratified at Plattsmouth in March. The B. & M.'s northwest line now extended from York to Aurora, and turned northward to Central City. The Union Pacific built from Oconee to Albion. The Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley pushed on from Oakdale to Neligh, and a branch diverged to Plainview.

1881. In July the B. & M. reached Culbertson, which carried its southern line almost through the Republican Valley to nearly the western edge of the state. The St. Joseph & Denver City extended from Grand Island to St. Paul, the county seat of Howard County, a branch that later became part of the Union Pacific system. The B. & M. depot was completed at Lincoln at a cost of \$125,000. The Union Pacific built from Beatrice to Kansas State Line and the Blue Springs spur. The F. E. & M. V. pushed on from O'Neill to Long Pine, and the "branch" from Plainview to Creighton.

1882. The Norfolk branch of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha was built. The Union Pacific branch was extended from St. Paul to North Loup, 26.63 miles, and the Scotia to Scotia Junction, a spur of 1.37 miles, was also built. The Missouri Pacific Railroad built into Cass County this year. The B. & M. extended from Culbertson to Benkleman, in the very southwest corner of the state.

1883. Salina, Lincoln and Decatur railroad organized. At this time the western terminus of the Sioux City & Pacific (now Chicago & Northwestern) was Fort Niobrara, this line having been extended on from Stanton, through O'Neill, Neligh and Long Pine.

1884. The Chicago & Northwestern secured ownership of C. R. & Mo. River and C. I. & N. Company, and by this time owned the old Sioux City & Pacific, with which the Northern Nebraska Air Line had been consolidated and the various early attempts in Northern Nebraska made by the Omaha & Northwestern, Omaha & Northern Nebraska, Covington, Columbus &

Black Hills, organized together under the name of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, owned by the Northwestern, but operated even now in 1920 under its own name, as a separate corporation. The Blair bridge had been completed in 1883 and the transfer of trains by steam ferry done away with. It had been built by a separate company known as the Missouri Valley & Blair Bridge Company. The Northwestern at this time also purchased the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley, and prepared to extend it on to the Black Hills and Wyoming. Sheridan and Dawes counties came into being, as the main line was extended through this territory in 1885. In 1884 the Union Pacific built from Lincoln to Beatrice, 58.10 miles; from Fullerton to Cedar Rapids 1.595 miles; and the Burlington extended its Grand Island & Wyoming Central line from Aurora to Grand Island. The Burlington had opened branches from Tecumseh to Beatrice in 1883, from Nemaha to Salem, and from Kenesaw to Holdrege. In 1884 it now extended its lines from Chester to Hebron, 12 miles; Dewitt to Tobias, 24 miles; its main line on from Holdrege to Oxford, 20 miles, and another branch from Odell to Concordia, Kan., 74 miles.

1885. In this year the Burlington extended a branch from Holdrege northwest to Elwood, 28 miles; and from Republican City, Neb., to Oberlin, Kan., 78 miles. The Union Pacific started a branch out of St. Paul toward Loup City that reached the Sherman County line in this year. The Northwestern's activity as mentioned above was in building its Black Hills lines west from Fort Niobrara toward Chadron. In this year a State Railroad Commission was established by the Legislature consisting of the secretary of state, the auditor and the attorney general, with the actual work done by three secretaries. This device was resorted to as the constitution said no new executive officers could be created, and it proved to be rather ineffectual and mainly advisory.

1886. The Burlington this year opened its line from Tobias to Holdrege, 113 miles; extended its Holdrege branch from Elwood to Curtis, 44 miles; and built branches from Fairmont to Hebron, 33 miles, and from Edgar to Superior, 26 miles. On its Grand Island & Wyoming Central district, it extended from Grand Island to Anselmo, Neb., 101 miles, and a branch was opened in September from Aurora to Hastings, 28 miles. The Union Pacific extended its Loup City branch the remaining 20 miles to termination. It extended its other northern Loup Valley branch from North Loup to Ord, which has remained the terminus to this time, 1920. In August, 1886, the Missouri Pacific completed its line to Lincoln. The Northwestern pushed ahead with its Black Hills lines, through Chadron, and opened direct communication from Lincoln, through the F. E. & M. V., with the Elkhorn Valley and Northwest Nebraska. This was accomplished by completion of the branch out of Fremont to the south, being completed from the Platte River bridge into Lincoln, and the Arlington to Omaha line being also completed. The Northwestern went on to Rapid City, S. D., this year. The F. E. & M. V. (Northwestern) was also projected in this year and started a branch through Butler, Seward, York, Hamilton, Clay and Adams counties, giving this road a line from David City through York to Harvard and Hastings. The Missouri Pacific built from Sarpy County to Omaha and started the Nebraska City branch to Weeping Water, which was finished in 1887.

1887. Incorporation of the Lincoln & Black Hills Railroad and the Republican Valley & Wyoming branch of the Burlington were filed. The Lincoln Belt

Line Railway was organized, and the Omaha, Lincoln, Hartland & Southwestern authorized surveys.

In this year a Board of Transportation was formed by state authority. This comprised the three officers named in the act of 1885 with the state treasurer added. This board was declared void in a supreme court opinion of 1900, because of defects in the passage of the act of 1885. The Burlington in 1887 extended its northwest Nebraska line from Auselmo to Whitman, 99 miles; pushed its Curtis branch on from Curtis to Cheyenne, Wyo., 263 miles; opened a line from Omaha to Ashland, destined to be a part of its main line, 25 miles; extended from Central City to Greeley, 44 miles, and opened in December from Greeley to Burwell, 41 miles; and diverging from the Greeley branch at Palmer, pushed to Arcadia (Valley County), 54 miles. It also opened a branch from Ashland to Schuyler, 51 miles; Orleans to Blakeman, Kan., 95 miles. The Union Pacific extended about ten miles of line from Boelus, on its Loup City branch, to Nantasket, in northern Buffalo County. The Kansas City & Omaha Railroad built into Sutton, Clay County, and came on through York County in this year. The Nebraska Southern Railway built from Auburn to Nebraska City, and the Northwestern built on to Whitewood, S. D.

1888. The Burlington extended its Wyoming line from Whitman to Alliance, Neb., 69 miles; built a branch from Greeley, Neb., to Ericson, 19 miles; and from Blakeman, Kan., to St. Francis, Kan., 39 miles. The F. E. & M. V. extended its Sutton branch. The Northwestern built from Geneva to Superior and from Lindsay to Oakdale, and extended its Niobrara line from Creighton to Verdigris; and the Missouri Pacific built from Talmage to Crete.

1889. The Burlington built from Alliance, Neb., to Cambria, Wyo., 162 miles, carrying this line beyond the Nebraska borders. They opened a line from Culbertson to Beverly, Neb., 10 miles, and changed the Denver to Lyons, Colo., line to standard gauge and leased it to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. The Northwestern extended lines from Linwood to Geneva and from Lindsay to Scribner.

1890. The Burlington activities had gone beyond Nebraska and were used on a branch from Newcastle to Merino, Wyo., and Edgemont to Hill City, S. D. The Northwestern was also working in South Dakota, extending this year lines to Belle Fourche and to Deadwood. The Union Pacific extended its Boelus branch from Nantasket to Pleasanton, its terminus, and started its branch from Kearney to Callaway, in southern Custer County. The Lincoln, Sioux City & Yankton, and the Lincoln & Western Railroad filed articles of incorporation.

1891. The Burlington opened branches from Beverly to Palisade, Neb., 8 miles; from Merino to Gillette, Wyo., 48 miles and extended from Hill City to Deadwood, S. D. and Minnekata to Hot Springs, S. D. The Northwestern was building lines around Deadwood and to Lead City. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific system was seeking to enter Lincoln, having in the year preceding been enjoined from crossing the tracks of the B. & M., and Omaha & Republican Valley lines, and it enjoined the Lincoln electric lines from crossing its tracks; but these injunctions were shortly thereafter vacated. The Rock Island was building from Omaha to Lincoln, extending its main line on the way toward Denver.

1892. The Rock Island built on into Lincoln, and extended its line on toward the Nebraska state border, toward Belleville, Kan. It has 127 miles of this line

in Nebraska and a branch from Fairbury to Nelson, of 51 miles, or a total of 178 miles in Nebraska. The Burlington built from Palisade to Imperial, Neb., 31 miles; and opened 101 miles from Gillette to Sheridan, Wyo.

1893. The Burlington construction was in Wyoming, and the Northwestern in South Dakota.

1894. The Burlington reached Billings, Mont., far beyond Nebraska's confines, but of vast importance to this state, as it gave another transportation outlet to the Northwest, and eventually to the Pacific Coast. This brings us to the years of the droughts, and in railroad activities as in every other line of human endeavor the next five year trying period is reflected. Nothing of importance comes in railroad extension until 1899.

1899. The Burlington opened a 19 mile extension of that branch from Arcadia, to Sargent, Neb., the present terminus in 1921.

1900. The Burlington made an important move to Western Nebraska and opened up the great North Platte Valley by building the branches from Alliance to Northport and Bridgeport, Neb., and on west to Guernsey, Wyo., 131 miles, and from Northport, Neb., south to Brush, Colo., 113 miles. The Union Pacific extended its Callaway yards.

1902. The Union Pacific extended its branch from Cedar Rapids (Boone County) to Spalding (Greeley County).

1904. The Northwestern extended its Northeastern Nebraska line to Bone-steel, S. D.

1906. The Union Pacific built the branch from Stromsburg (Polk County) to Central City (Merrick County), joining the main line there, and trains are run to Grand Island over this combined line. The Burlington extended a line from Ashland to South Sioux City (Laketon), 107 miles. In 1906 the Union Pacific started the construction of the second, or double track on its main line, and continued this work through 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1910 on its Nebraska line.

1907. The Burlington purchased the line from South Sioux City to O'Neill, Neb. The Union Pacific started its line up into the North Platte Valley, building in 1907 from O'Fallons, near North Platte, to Lutherville, 62 miles. In this year, the permanent Railway Commission was started, having been established by a constitutional amendment. Hudson J. Winnett, of Lincoln, Robert Cowell, of Omaha, and Joseph A. Williams, of Pierce County, were named. Mr. Cowell resigned from the commission in April, 1907, and Henry T. Clarke took his place. Mr. Clarke served until 1917.

1908. The Union Pacific built from Lutherville to Oshkosh, about 9 miles, and a line from Summit to Lane, the "Lane Cutoff," in Douglas County, thereby shortening its main line.

1909. The Burlington built 7 miles of line from Lincoln to Cobb Junction, and the Union Pacific extended from Oshkosh to Northport, practically 45 miles.

1911. The Union Pacific extended its branch from Northport to Gering, and then to Haig, a few miles beyond Gering.

1912-1913. The Union Pacific extended its Callaway branch on to Stapleton, in Logan County.

1920. The Union Pacific is extending its North Platte Valley branch from Haig, Neb. (Scotts Bluff County), on to Goshen Hole, Wyo., with the ultimate aim of joining its main line at Medicine Bow, Wyo. Extensions of the Burlington

branch terminating at Ericson on to Chambers and into Holt County, and either the Union Pacific branch at Spalding or Albion into Wheeler County and on toward Holt County and the Northwestern line are being agitated and projection attempted in 1920.

#### THE STATE RAILWAY COMMISSION

As shown heretofore, this body started out with Hudson J. Winnett, Joseph A. Williams and Henry T. Clarke as members, and Mr. Clarke served until 1917, when he was succeeded by Victor E. Wilson, who had won in the election of 1916. Mr. Winnett served until 1913, when H. G. Taylor, of Central City, took a seat on the commission. Mr. Taylor had defeated C. E. Harmon in the 1912 election, and was re-elected in 1918 and is still a member of this body. On December 1, 1911, Thomas L. Hall became a member of the commission to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Commissioner W. H. Cowgill, who had succeeded Commissioner Williams. William J. Furse has served by appointment following Commissioner Cowgill's death. Commissioner Hall was re-elected in 1914, and served from 1915 until date, but retired in January, 1921, not having again been a candidate for re-election to this office, but running for governor in the primaries of 1920. Commissioner Wilson resigned in 1919, and Sec. Thorne Browne was appointed in his place. Commissioner Browne in 1920 was elected to the seat of Commissioner Hall choosing the longer term rather than to succeed himself, for a four year balance, and Harry L. Cook was elected for the balance of Commissioner Browne's term. The secretaries of the commission have been Clark Perkins, from 1907 to 1912; A. B. Allen, 1912-1916; Thorne A. Browne, 1916-1920, and J. E. Curtiss, 1920.

#### RAILROADS' PALMY POLITICAL DAYS

On December 10, 1920, George W. Holdrege resigned as general manager of the lines west of the Burlington system, after continuous service in that capacity since 1886, and fifty-one years of service with this railroad in Nebraska. This occasion brought forth from the Nebraska State Journal some interesting reminiscences of railroad history of the state, which will aptly close this portion of our review.

For more than twenty-five years Mr. Holdrege wielded a political power that no man before him or since has essayed in Nebraska. Governors and United States senators, not to mention many other minor state officers, were made and unmade in his office in Omaha. In that period between the eclipse of VanWyck and the rise of George Sheldon and Norris Brown he reigned supreme. No man thought to run for any important state office until after he had gone to Omaha to see George W. Holdrege, and his office was the mecca of legislators and others active in republican politics.

*Sought No Personal Advantage.* Mr. Holdrege differed from the traditional political boss in that he never sought profit personally by reason of the power he wielded. A Burlington man first, last, and always, his power was employed solely to advance and protect the interests of that railroad. He made no alliances with disreputable elements. He made no effort to conceal either what he was doing



or how he did it. Himself he kept always in the background. Very rarely did he appear at Lincoln when the legislature was in session, or at other times. He dealt largely through agents, J. H. Ager, who recently died in Lincoln, being his most trusted man for many years.

The machine operated by Mr. Holdrege was organized along business lines, in each county through which the road ran. It was represented by a group of active politicians all of whom were holders of annual passes. One of the group, usually a lawyer or a banker, was the chief pass distributor for the county. He was supplied with blank books of passes issued in Mr. Holdrege's name, and he was free to use these as he pleased, but that power was subject to the rule that it must not be employed recklessly or unwisely. If he used it so, he lost his power and his pass, and they passed to another. The same fate awaited him if he failed to bring the delegation from that county to the state convention, and could not offer a reasonable explanation therefor.

This group was usually composed of one or two lawyers, bankers, business men, and a doctor or two, men who knew the political game and how to play upon the prejudices and ambitions of men. They made up the local machine, which fattened on its power to award offices and give out passes. Through the lax system of primaries by which delegates to county conventions were selected, an organized group, except where a vital issue that stirred voters to action, could invariably get control of the county conventions. They set up dummy candidates in precincts in order to control the votes of the precinct delegation, and then put these into a pot with the delegates brought in by the candidates they had previously decided to nominate, and thus controlled without any trouble.

Their principal job was to bring in the county delegation to the state convention, and thus the railroads controlled that gathering. They also recommended or picked candidates for the legislature, and were also permitted to salve their vanity by setting up as little local bosses, subject to correction and punishment for abuse of power.

The railroads had been in politics from the beginning of the state, but they never appeared so strongly in the open as they did after they had repelled first the granger movement that lifted VanWyck to eminence and later the populist movement. From then until 1906 a republican state convention, packed by railroad passholders, dictated party policies and the personnel of state officers. The Burlington was the master force for a number of years, due to the leadership of Holdrege, but in time the Union Pacific and Northwestern challenged its supremacy, and in a number of state conventions the battle was less between candidates than it was between railroads, as to which should control and dictate the principal nominees.

*End of Railroad Politics.* This condition of affairs was generally known and accepted, and it was not until 1906, when Sheldon as a candidate for governor and Brown as a candidate for senator challenged the right of the railroads to operate the state government and name the men who should fill the offices. The battle was a hot one. It was really lost in Lancaster County, where just before the convention the two contending forces, each desirous of getting a foothold in the state convention and each being fearful of defeat, had agreed on a truce by which the delegation was to be split. When Mr. Holdrege was informed of this agreement, sensing with his keen vision of politics that a victory in Lancaster was necessary

if the convention control was to be gained, he ordered his lieutenants to fight it out. They did, and lost by the narrow margin of a dozen votes in a convention of over eight hundred delegates.

The railroads were routed in that state convention and the next legislature put them out of politics by adopting a number of new laws; principally the direct primary and the abolition of the pass. Mr. Holdrege's reign ended then. It was only by the pass and the convention system that the railroads could control. Past successes had convinced ambitious young men that political preferment could be gained only through the existing railroad machine, and when the fetich was destroyed along with the organization, it ended all hope for the sort of controlled politics that had existed for so many years.

*Accepted New Conditions.* No rail manager ever accepted absolutely changed conditions more readily than Mr. Holdrege. Some of his friends said that taking political work away from railroads came as an absolute relief to the Burlington general manager. He devoted himself to railroading more ardently than ever, matters of railroad development and transportation receiving attention that formerly had been divided by attention to matters political.

When the Hill ownership came many said that a manager schooled as Mr. Holdrege had been in the old way of doing things could never take up the newer ways. To the surprise of some who knew him least he at once became a manager of the Hill type, an exponent of the Hill ideas in railroading, a manager who fitted in well in the new regime. He reorganized his forces and began the campaign of rebuilding and betterment that started with Hill ownership as energetically as he had entered the campaign of new building and expansion of the system in the rush building period of the '80s. Hill ownership and Hill methods had preceded the legislature of 1907, which put the railroads out of politics, and Mr. Holdrege found no lack of work to be done after he had been relieved of his political responsibilities.

*Mr. Holdrege Has No Regrets.* In an interview in 1914, Mr. Holdrege was asked if he were to start life over again if he would be a railroad man.

"I have no reason to say I would not be," was the reply. "I like the work and always have."

"Are there opportunities today for the young man to forge ahead in railroad work as there were when you entered the service?"

"There is always a chance for young men to forge ahead," he said. "The future of our country is great and will become more important as time goes on."

"Would you advise a young man to enter railroad business for a life work?"

"That depends on the circumstances. There are splendid opportunities for young energetic men today in our business just as there always have been. If a young man likes the work I can see no reason why he should not choose it for his calling. I can say this: The railroad field is a good one for any energetic young man of today. To succeed in it requires hard work and plenty of it—fidelity to duty and a willingness to learn everything possible that can be learned about all that have to do with railroading."

## CHAPTER IX

### RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DURING THE THIRTIES—DURING THE FORTIES—DENOMINATIONAL BEGINNINGS—THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOL, AND THE SOCIETY—BELLEVUE—NEBRASKA CITY—OMAHA—GRAND LODGE, MASONIC—GRAND LODGE K. OF P.—PLATTSMOUTH—BROWNVILLE—NEMAHA COUNTY—WASHINGTON COUNTY—TEKAMAH—COLUMBUS—FREMONT—TECUMSEH—FALLS CITY—BEATRICE—GRAND ISLAND—KEARNEY—NORTH PLATTE—LINCOLN—SCHUYLER—WAHOO—BLAIR—FAIRBURY—NORFOLK—MADISON—SEWARD—MILFORD—YORK—HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA—THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA—PROF. SAMUEL AUGHEY'S REVIEW OF THE STARTING OF THE UNIVERSITY—NEBRASKA COLLEGES. BY SOURCE OF SUPPORT—BY THE STATE—BAPTIST—CATHOLIC—PRESBYTERIAN—UNITED BRETHREN—DANISH LUTHERAN—LUTHERAN—METHODIST EPISCOPAL—CONGREGATIONAL—NEBRASKA'S CARE FOR HER NEEDY.

Nebraska's attention to the cultivation of the religious, educational and social phases of life started practically coincident with the historical record of its settlements and governmental inaugurations.

It is not within our power in this brief review to go into any detailed historical record of each denomination of the many religious bodies which have carried on the most sacred work of life within the growing State of Nebraska. But we will endeavor to give a short chronology of the simultaneous religious development in this state by the various denominations.

Before 1833. If it be true that Quivera was located within the present boundaries of Nebraska, then Rev. John de Padilla, Franciscan friar, was the first Christian clergyman to officiate within the limits of Nebraska, as he accompanied Coronado in 1541. From 1670 to 1776 the region now known as Nebraska was under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Quebec. It was placed subject to the diocese of Santiago de Cuba in 1777, and later fell under the sway of the French ecclesiastics. The various explorers of the Mississippi Valley were many of them priests of the Catholic faith.

1833. It was in this year that Rev. Moses Merrill and wife came as missionaries to Bellevue. Rev. Moses Merrill was the son of a Baptist minister of Sedgwick, Maine. He gave up his work of teaching in Michigan, in February, 1830, and devoted his attention to theological study, preaching and preparing to do missionary work among the Indians. He was married on June 1, 1830, to Miss Eliza Wilcox, and in September, 1832, they were appointed as missionaries by the Baptist Missionary Union to Sault Ste. Marie. From there they went to Shawnee Mission, Mo., and then came to Bellevue, Indian Territory (now

Nebraska) 200 miles from any white settlement, and there arrived on November 19th. A school for Indian children was at once opened, and preaching by an interpreter speedily followed. The Indians were visited, fed, counseled and befriended.

1834. The Merrills continued their work and undertook the preparation of an Otoe spelling book, a reading book making thirty pages duodecimo, and a hymn book. The Indians soon learned to sing the hymns of the little hymn book.

A Presbyterian mission for the Pawnees was undertaken in this year by Rev. Samuel Allis and Rev. John Dunbar. Reverend Dunbar first began work in 1834 among the Omaha Indians at Bellevue, and later extended his activities to the Pawnee Indians, as far up as Fullerton.

1835. In September of this year the Merrill family removed from Bellevue, six miles, to the vicinity of the new Otoe village, and occupied a log house, sixteen feet square, just completed. In December they moved into a larger house.

1836. On August 14th the first exercises in Otoe were held at the school house. The year 1837 continued along in a similar tenor. Additional mission buildings were completed and the first address to the Indians in Otoe was given. The work progressed on through 1838 and 1839, and in 1840 the spirit of this wonderful man was called to the home beyond. The Otoes, who knew him as "The-one-who-always-speaks-the-truth," inquired if he whom they mourned had not a brother who would come and take his place. Samuel Pearce Merrill, second son of this worthy couple, who prepared the memorial to his father, incorporated in Vol. 4, of Nebraska Historical Society Papers, p. 157, closed the same with this memorial observation:

"The journal record of hardships, losses, dangers, and narrow escapes with life gives reasons enough for the quick termination of this mission by the death of its leader. And the scenes of lust, drunkenness, lawlessness, and murder amid which the wife of this missionary employed herself in teaching these savages were enough to start the stoutest mind from its true center. Sickness, epidemics, cholera, and drunkenness worst of all, ravaged the tribe during these years."

The excerpts from the diary of this worthy missionary which follow in that volume, at pp. 160 to 191, are worth the attention of any one who would enjoy a glimpse of what difficulties church work in those early times met with.

In the '40s Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ward Pratt joined the Indian mission at the Pawnee villages in 1843, and Rev. William Kinney took that work up in 1846. The work of the Churches of Christ was initiated in Nebraska in 1845, with a sermon preached by a man named Foster, at a point on the south side of the North Platte River opposite the present town of Ogalalla.

It will be recalled that with the exception of the trading posts and Indian missions, the real settlement in Nebraska communities was deferred until 1853 and 1854.

#### DENOMINATIONAL BEGINNINGS

1855. The Baptist Church work started in this year upon a firm foundation. Beginning with the arrival of Rev. J. M. Taggart in the following year, their work speedily progressed, growing from his efforts to a record of 14 churches and 16 ministers by 1866, and around 200 churches some sixty years later.

In January of this year the Christian Church at Brownville was organized, through the efforts of Richard Brown, who had settled on the site of Brownville, and Joel M. Wood, with "Father" John Mullis associated with them.

The first Catholic church was established in Omaha in May or June of this year.

Rev. Henry M. Giltner crossed the Missouri River in this year and started out the work of the Presbyterian Church. Both the Baptists and Presbyterians organized churches at Nebraska City during this year.

1856. This year saw the foundation of Episcopalian activities in this state, with the organization of a mission at Omaha. The Congregational people also secured a start in this year.

1857. The United Presbyterians inaugurated their work with the organization of a small congregation at Rock Bluffs in Cass County. On January 6th Nebraska was established as a separate and relatively independent vicariate apostolic of the Roman Catholic Church.

1858. The Nebraska Baptists Association was organized in 1858. The Congregational people founded a college at Fontanelle and laid the foundation for the splendid work done by the various denominations in educational extension.

The work of the United Brethren Church in Nebraska began with a conference organized in this year by Bishop Edwards, with Rev. J. M. Dosh as the leading spirit. Rev. Henry W. Kuhns, pioneer of the work of the Lutheran Church in Nebraska, left Pittsburg in this year and came to Nebraska, his first church organized being the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Omaha.

The various denominations already mentioned were the pioneers in church work in Nebraska.

1860-1870. During the decade of the Civil war and the elevation of Nebraska to statehood still other denominations entered this field and began their worthy work. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states began work in this state in 1868. About that time the Reformed Church also entered the state. The Lutheran Missouri Synod's first church was on Rock Creek, near Beemer, in Cuming County.

This decade brought the turning point in the history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska. On April 4, 1861, Nebraska was made a separate conference and separated from the Kansas-Nebraska conference, which had been operating as such since October, 1856. The first Nebraska activities of the church officially had been taken in June, 1854, but Rev. Harrison Presson had held a service in this territory in April, 1850.

Thus it will be seen that the Baptists, Presbyterians and Methodists began church work in Nebraska almost before the permanent settlements were planted, and numerous other denominations followed so closely that it is impractical to attempt to rank these various splendid bodies in any order of arrival.

#### THE CHURCH, THE SCHOOL AND THE SOCIETY

It is impossible to take up each county in the state and go into proper detail in presenting the establishment and growth of the various churches, schools and fraternal and social societies. But we may be able to grasp a composite view of the faithful service rendered in the evolutionary development of the state from a

primitive wilderness to the wonderful Commonwealth of 1920, by reviewing the establishment or organization of the first churches, schools and lodges in the various communities. For this purpose we will take a hurried review of the various communities settled between 1854 and 1870, a period of approximately fifteen years, and which carries through the pioneering days of almost all parts of the state.

Noting which denominations organized the first two or three churches in the various communities will give some conception of the activities of each church, and will serve to show that practically all of the stronger denominations were not only in this field early, but very much in earnest.

The foundation stones of the American Republic have been: the *Home*: It was the first institution to be started in any community, for there was no town possible until a little group of settlers had established homes, however humble; the *State*, represented in the new border community at first by neighborhood co-operation in self-defense and guarding; then in local township and county government, and full espousal and participation in state affairs when the town, the township and the county organizations had been perfected; the *Church*: For no matter how far away from the old home back East, or from across the ocean, came the courageous settlers of the New West, they usually brought with them the Bible, and established Sabbath schools in some parlor, and soon received the holy minister of some denomination, and if the denomination to which they had been affiliated back East or across the Shores was not the first or the second to arrive in the new community, they usually worshipped faithfully with the one that did come, until their own special denominational form of worship was established in the community; the *School*: All countries have been composed of homes; the state in some form of government, and in their better days nestled close to the church. But the distinctively American contribution to the welfare of the world, has been the *Public School*. This is a democratic cornerstone in every sense of the word. Out on the wild prairie where were clustered a few humble houses, a store or two, a school was opened and the sons and daughters of each family attended school together. This idea has been carried out faithfully in American life, and today in village, rural district, town, or great city the son of the rich sits beside the son or daughter of the poor in this world's wealth. Then came into these new communities one more important factor in welding a community spirit, the wonderful social adhesive, the American lodge. In the busy days of the twentieth century, with automobiles to travel in nicer weather, so many wonderfully developed theatres and picture shows, lecture halls and places of entertainment and instruction, and with so many modern conveniences of pianos, player pianos, phonographs and libraries in the home, it is hardly possible for the present generation, with all of the devotion it possesses toward its lodges, fraternal societies and social organizations to realize fully what these meant to the pioneer of a generation or two ago.

Then there were no phonographs, but few pianos, no complete public library in the town, no automobiles to distract so many hours from mental pleasures, and the necessity for a certain amount of social intercourse and human fellowship with his neighbors could only be satisfied, beyond the neighborly family meetings, in the lodge room or lecture hall.

Reiterating that while we know we cannot take the space to go into every community in the state, or into every county, and pull aside the curtain and peer into the past, we will avail ourselves of the opportunity to take a "backward"

look into the establishment of church, school and lodge into those communities settled during the first fifteen years of the state's growth.

In order to more fully realize the short space of time that usually elapsed before these strengthening and socializing features of individual and community life arrived, we will after the name of the town, in parentheses, insert the year of its permanent settlement, or actual beginning as a community.

*Bellevue* (1844). Presbyterian Church—1855. Holy Trinity Episcopal 1861. The first Masonic Lodge in the state, Nebraska Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M. organized here in March, 1854. Bellevue Lodge No. 3, Knights of Pythias, July 31, 1869. Public school building erected in 1869. The town was settled in 1844, organized or incorporated in 1856, and this shows the slow growth before territorial formation.

*Nebraska City* (Fort Kearney in 1846-1852-1854). First school taught by Miss Martin (later Mrs. Jessen) in spring of 1855. First Baptist Church organized August 18, 1855, at the old "frame meeting house." Preaching in community first by Rev. William D. Gage, a Methodist missionary, in 1854. Methodist Church organized in 1855 by Reverend Gage. Presbyterians organized August 10, 1855, Rev. H. M. Giltner, missionary. All Catholic work until 1859 in charge of Vicariate Apostolic of Kansas, under Rt. Rev. Bishop S. B. Meigs, of Leavenworth, Kan. This territory supplied in early years of Nebraska City and vicinity and other communities in southeastern corner of the state, by regular visits to various points under the supervision of the Benedictine fathers of Kansas. The first regular visitant was Rev. Augustine Wirth, O. S. B., who also visited Omaha. His successor in 1858 was Rev. Francis Cannon, O. S. B. He resided in Omaha for a time, and then came back to Nebraska City. In 1860 the parish at Nebraska City had so grown as to receive a regular minister, and Father Vogg was assigned to this point. This extended treatment of the early Catholic work has been given at this point, so it may be referred to in review of other communities without having to repeat it in detail each time. A church was started on Kearney Heights in 1860, and in 1865 a Benedictine sister founded an academy here. Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., organized 1855. Nebraska City Lodge No. 1, Odd Fellows, May, 1855, later merged in Frontier Lodge No. 3.

*Omaha* (1853 and 1854). First clergyman to visit Omaha is supposed to have been Dr. Gregory of Syracuse, N. Y., a divine of the Episcopal Church, and a chaplain at Fort Leavenworth in 1835. Church services were first started in 1855, and a mission established on July 13, 1856. St. Marks, an outgrowth of Trinity Mission, 1867, and St. Barnabas Church, May 3, 1869. First Methodist Church started in 1854, with regular missionary in 1855. First Congregational, 1855; First Baptist, 1855, Rev. Wm. Leach as missionary. First Presbyterian, 1857, Rev. George P. Bergen first missionary; Latter Day Saints (Mormons) of course had a church here as early as 1847. A Young Men's Christian Association was organized as early as November 22, 1867.

First public school was opened November 1, 1859.

Capital Lodge No. 3, A. F. & A. M., organized January 26, 1857. Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M., organized at Masonic Hall in Omaha.

*The Grand Lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M.*—This grand Masonic body was organized in the Masonic hall in Omaha, September 23, 1857, by delegates from

Nebraska Lodge No. 1, of Bellevue; Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Nebraska City; and Capital Lodge No. 3, of Omaha. Its first officers were R. C. Jordan, Grand Master; L. L. Bowen, Deputy Grand Master; David Lindley, Grand Senior Warden; L. B. Kinney, Grand Junior Warden; William Anderson, Grand Treasurer; George Armstrong, Grand Secretary; John M. Chivington, Grand Chaplain; Horatio N. Cornell, Grand Marshal; Charles W. Hamilton, Grand Senior Deacon; John A. Nye, Grand Junior Deacon. The officers in 1882 were James R. Cain of Falls City, Grand Master; Edwin F. Warren, Nebraska City, Deputy Grand Master; Samuel W. Hayes, Norfolk, Grand Senior Warden; John G. Wemple, Hastings, Grand Junior Warden; Christian Hartman, Omaha, Grand Treasurer; William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Secretary; George Scott, Sutton, Grand Chaplain; James S. Gilham, Red Cloud, Grand Orator; Lee P. Gillette, Lincoln, Grand Lecturer; Alfred S. Palmer, Lincoln, Grand Marshal; Francis E. White, Plattsmouth, Grand Senior Deacon; Frank E. Bullard, North Platte, G. J. D.; John McClelland, Lincoln, Grand Tiler. The lodge meets annually on the festival of St. John the Baptist (June 24) at such place as is designated at its previous meeting.

The Grand Chapter of Nebraska, R. A. M., was organized March 19, 1867. The first officers were: H. P. Deuel, Grand High Priest; James W. Moore, Deputy Grand High Priest; Daniel H. Wheeler, Grand King; Edwin A. Allen, Grand Scribe; Orsamus H. Irish, Grand Treasurer; Elbert T. Duke, Grand Secretary; George C. Betts, Grand Chaplain. The officers in 1882 were Samuel P. Davidson, Grand High Priest, Tecumseh; William H. Munger, Deputy Grand High Priest, Fremont; James A. Tulleys, Grand King, Red Cloud; Henry E. Palmer, Grand Scribe, Plattsmouth; Christian Hartman, Grand Treasurer, Omaha; William R. Bowen, Grand Secretary, Omaha; Frank E. Bullard, Grand Chaplain, North Platte; Robert W. Furnas, Grand Lecturer, Brownville; Oren N. Wheelock, Grand Captain of the Host, Beatrice; Parley M. Hartson, Grand Principal Sojourner, Omaha; James Tyler, Grand Royal Arch Captain, Lincoln; Ithamar T. Benjamin, Grand Master Third Vail, Crete; Walter J. Thompson, Grand Master Second Vail, Hebron; John D. Moore, Grand Master First Vail, Grand Island; Emanuel Fist, Jr., Grand Steward, Hastings; Wilson M. Maddox, Grand Steward, Falls City; Francis S. White, Grand Sentinel, Plattsmouth.

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Nebraska was organized December 28, 1871. Its first officers were: H. P. Deuel, Grand Commander; William E. Hill, Deputy Grand Commander; James M. Hurty, Grand Generalissimo; D. H. Wheeler, Grand Captain General; G. C. Betts, Grand Prelate; C. S. Chase, Grand Senior Warden; R. H. Oakley, Grand Junior Warden; Henry Bowen, Grand Treasurer; Robert W. Furnas, Grand Recorder. The officers in 1882 were: Eben K. Long, Omaha, Grand Commander; Francis E. White, Plattsmouth, Deputy Grand Commander; Samuel G. Owen, Lincoln, Grand Generalissimo; Charles B. Palmer, Beatrice, Grand Captain General; Frank E. Bullard, North Platte, Grand Prelate; Thomas Sewell, Lincoln, Grand Senior Warden; James R. Cain, Falls City, Grand Junior Warden; James S. France, Omaha, Grand Treasurer; William R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Recorder; Dennis H. Andrews, Crete, Grand Standard Bearer; William H. Munger, Fremont, Grand Sword Bearer; John J. Wemple, Hastings, Grand Warden; Morris L. Alexander, Hastings, Grand Captain of the Guards.



## I. O. O. F.

The Odd Fellows also secured an early start in Omaha.

The first lodge of the I. O. O. F. in Nebraska was Nebraska Lodge No. 1, at Nebraska City, instituted May 29, 1855. This was followed by Omaha Lodge, No. 2, which was instituted January 1, 1856, under a dispensation granted by the Grand Lodge of the United States, dated November 17, 1855, and signed by William Eggleston, Grand Sire. The lodge was organized by J. P. Cassady, P. G., of Council Bluffs, and the following officers installed: A. D. Jones, N. G.; T. G. Goodwill, V. G.; A. S. Bishop, Sec.; George Armstrong, Per. Sec.; H. D. Johnson, Treas. This meeting and a few succeeding ones were held in the former council chamber of the old brick capitol. H. C. Anderson was the first candidate initiated into the mysteries of the order. Their meetings were held in Odd Fellow's Hall, on every Friday evening.

Allemanan Lodge No. 8, was instituted March 26, 1864. The charter members were Henry Grebe, W. Doll, J. T. Paulsen, H. Bruening and J. Schneider. The first officers were A. Grebe, N. G.; H. Bruening, V. G.; J. T. Paulsen, Sec.; W. Doll, Treas. The lodge met every Wednesday evening in Odd Fellow's Hall.

The Knights of Pythias order was started in Nebraska with the organization of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, August 13, 1868, and installed in October. George H. Crager came to this state for the purpose of rendering himself conspicuous in promulgating the principles of this wonderful order. Damon Lodge No. 2 of the same order was granted a dispensation on the 29th of April, 1869.

The Grand Lodge of Nebraska, Knights of Pythias, was organized October 13, 1869, at Pythian Hall, in Omaha, at 515 Fourteenth Street, by the following representatives of their respective lodges: H. B. Case, Dr. L. F. Babcock, John Taylor, of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, of Omaha; Dr. O. S. Wood, J. J. Curtis, E. E. French, of Damon Lodge No. 2, of Omaha; John Q. Goss, of Bellevue Lodge No. 3, of Bellevue; John F. Kuhn, Charles Hollo, of Planet Lodge No. 4, of Omaha; William L. Wells, of Platte Valley Lodge No. 5, of Plattsmouth. The following officers having been elected were presented and installed by Supreme Chancellor Read; Ven. G. P., George H. Crager, of No. 1; G. C., David Carter, of No. 2; V. G. C., John Q. Goss, of No. 3; G. R. & C. S., E. E. French, of No. 2; G. B., T. C. Brunner, of No. 1; G. G., William L. Wells, of No. 5; G. I. S., John F. Kuhn, of No. 4; G. O. S., John Taylor, of No. 1. There were, in 1882, in the State of Nebraska, twenty-seven subordinate lodges working by the authority of this Grand Lodge. The officers of the Grand Lodge in 1882 were: P. G. C., Frederick Mutton; G. C., H. F. Downs; V. G. C., J. G. Jones; G. P., Rev. W. E. Copeland; G. M. of the E., Joseph Rosenstein; G. K. of R. & S., E. E. French; G. M. at A., L. C. Dunn; G. I. S., Daniel M. Stall; G. O. S., John Forrer; G. L., John Q. Goss; S. R., John J. Morrell, Jr., and J. S. Shropshire. The Grand Lodge met annually at such place as was designated at its previous meeting.

*Plattsmouth* (1853). The first sermon was preached in October, 1856, at the house of Thomas Ashley, by Abraham Towner, who was appointed probate judge by Governor Cuming in the next March. This illustrates the necessity the early settlers often felt of starting religious services before a church could be organized. The early churches of this community were: First Baptist, October 17, 1856; First Methodist Episcopal, organized June 29, 1857, with twenty members under

pastorate of Rev. Hiram Burch. First Presbyterian initiated in May, 1858, through efforts of Rev. John Hughes. Christian Church organized in May, 1858. St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal, August, 1860. St. John's Catholic, 1860, building erected in 1861.

Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6, A. F. & A. M., dispensation, January 18, 1858. Plattsmouth Lodge No. 7, I. O. O. F., March 4, 1874.

The first school was taught in a frame building then standing on Gospel Hill, in 1856, by Mary Stocking.

*Brownville* (1854). The first school district in Nemaha County was No. 1, H. S. Thorpe, teacher. By 1860 the county had six districts, with one schoolhouse in Brownville and two in Glen Rock township.

Christian Church organized at Brownville, January, 1855; Methodist Episcopal, February, 1858; Congregational, June 23, 1858; Presbyterian, October 31, 1858; Christ Church (Episcopal), 1863. Nemaha Valley Lodge No. 4, A. F. & A. M., organized at the residence of Jesse Noel on September 27, 1857; I. O. O. F., on September 24, 1857; I. O. G. T., October 12, 1867; Dramatic Society, 1876, and Cornet Band in 1868.

*Nemaha City* (1854). First school, 1857-8. Methodists organized in 1857; St. John's Protestant Episcopal, September 18, 1860; Christian Church, 1865.

Hope Lodge No. 29, A. F. & A. M., November 18, 1868; I. O. O. F. Nemaha City Lodge No. 40, October, 1873; I. O. G. T. (Independent Order of Good Templars), Nemaha City Lodge No. 109, March, 1873. As we progress through this review, the numbers assigned to the various lodges indicate the rate of progress that had been made by the various leading fraternal orders up to that time.

*Peru* (1855). The first sermon in Peru was by a Methodist minister, Rev. W. S. Horn, in 1855. Their church was the first erected in Peru, in 1859, though a class had been organized in 1857. The first lodge of the Good Templars in Nebraska was organized in Peru, and through its instrumentality a saloon was kept out of the town regularly for many years. The district schoolhouse was erected in 1858.

*Washington County Towns* (1854); Fontanelle (1854); This town secured the charter for a college named "Nebraska University" in 1856, and a Congregational Academy was opened that year, with Professor Burt as the first principal.

*Fort Calhoun* (1854). In the summer of 1856, religious services were held in the court house once a month, being conducted by Rev. Mr. Collins of Omaha, a Methodist missionary. This fact again illustrates the methods used to secure religious worship before a church could be started.

*De Soto* (1854). Reverend Collins held meetings here in 1855. At one time while this gentleman was holding meeting some rowdies threw a dead dog through the window from the outside. Upon which he remarked, "My friends, the devil is not dead in De Soto yet," and immediately resumed the services. The Methodists secured their first resident minister in 1857.

*Tekamah* (1855). The Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran and Episcopal were the first five churches erected. Methodist organization, 1856.

*Columbus* (1856). School work was organized in Platte County early in 1860. St. John's Catholic Church was organized in 1860; the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis established a hospital, monastery and school of the Francis-

cans in the late '70s; Congregational Society organized in 1865; Re-organized Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) 1865; Presbyterian, November 1, 1869; German Reformed, 1872; Grace Episcopal, 1869; Methodist Episcopal, 1877; Baptist, 1880. Willey Lodge No. 44, I. O. O. F., March 5, 1874; Lebanon Lodge No. 58, A. F. & A. M., June 24, 1875; W. C. T. U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union), 1877.

*Fremont* (1856). Miss Charity Colson taught school in Fremont during the summer of 1858. Miss McNeal the next summer taught the first district school.

Congregational Church was first, with Rev. I. E. Heaton as its first pastor, November 2, 1856. Methodist organization made in summer of 1857; St. James Episcopal, 1865; Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1869; Presbyterian, November 23, 1873. German Evangelical also organized in 1873; First Baptist, 1869.

Fremont Lodge No. 15, A. F. & A. M., dispensation, July 24, 1866; Fremont Lodge No. 859, Knights of Honor, January 24, 1878; Royal Arcanum, 1879; W. C. T. U., 1877; Y. M. C. A., December, 1869.

*Tecumseh* (1857). The Catholic church was the first church building erected in Tecumseh, in 1868. Methodists organized in 1865, with settled pastor in 1873; Presbyterians organized in 1870, and secured a church in 1873. St. Andrews Roman Catholic Mission was formed in 1866. Tecumseh Lodge No. 17, A. F. & A. M., organized October 3, 1867; Hamlin Lodge No. 24, I. O. O. F., instituted October 9, 1872; G. A. R. organized, May 1879; Tecumseh Lodge No. 17, K. of P., organized March 30, 1874; K. O. H., 1879; W. C. T. U., 1877.

*Falls City* (laid out in 1857). Methodist Church organized in Falls City in 1856, following similar organization at Archer, in 1855, with Rev. David Hart as the traveling missionary of this vicinity. Presbyterian organization, 1866; St. Thomas Episcopal, 1867; Baptist, 1873; Christian, 1876. Falls City Lodge No. 13, I. O. O. F., September 28, 1869; Richardson County District Lodge No. 1, I. O. G. T., April 2, 1879; Falls City Lodge No. 18, Knights of Pythias, June, 1874; Falls City Lodge No. 9, A. F. & A. M., October 13, 1864; G. A. R., 1882.

*Rulo* (1857). Methodist Church, 1864; Baptist, 1866; St. Peter's Episcopal, 1867; The Church of Immaculate Conception, 1870, though Catholic mission here since 1858, at times conducted. Orient Lodge, No. 13, Masonic, June 19, 1867; Rulo Lodge No. 12, I. O. O. F., January 28, 1869; Rulo Lodge No. 132, I. O. G. T., June 7, 1878.

*Beatrice* (1857). The first school house in Beatrice was built upon the square known as the School Block, with Mrs. Francis Butler as first teacher. The Methodist Church organized about 1860, with Rev. John Foster, as pastor; Presbyterian, 1869; Christ Church (Episcopal) April, 1871; Christian Church, October, 1872; First Baptist, 1873; German Baptists, commonly called "Dunkards," 1875; German Methodists in Clatonia precinct, in 1870; Lutherans in 1875. Blue Lodge No. 26, A. F. & A. M., was organized in 1869; Beatrice Lodge No. 19, I. O. O. F., instituted May 24, 1870; Knights of Honor, 1880; G. A. R. post, February, 1880; Good Templars, 1874; W. C. T. U., 1880.

*Grand Island* (1857). As early as 1864 a private school was conducted in the neighborhood adjacent to present Grand Island, where the first Grand Island

settlement was located. This school was upon the Theo. Nagel farm, and a number of scholars attended Mr. Nagel's classes there. The school district Number Two, that of the City of Grand Island, was formally organized in 1868. The first public school was held in a one-story frame building on Second Street, opposite the present City Hall Block. Hon. O. A. Abbott, Sr., the first lieutenant governor of the state, was the first teacher in that public school building.

The church history of Hall County begins with the establishment of public worship by the Catholics near Wood River in 1861. The first Catholic church organization, however, was at Grand Island in 1864, with mass said by Father Ryan of Columbus once a month. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island was organized in the summer of 1871. The Methodist Church here was organized in February, 1872; Baptist in 1870; Presbyterian in 1869, by Rev. Shedon Jackson; United Brethren, 1876; Evangelical Lutheran, 1882. Grand Island has become the see city of the Western or Platte diocese in Nebraska for the Catholic Church, with Bishop Duffy located here, and is a strong Lutheran center, with several Lutheran churches.

Ashlar Lodge No. 33, A. F. & A. M., organized October 5, 1870; Grand Island Lodge No. 60, I. O. G. T., and Sons of Temperance early in the '70s; Grand Island Lodge No. 22, I. O. O. F., December 17, 1870; K. of P. Nysian Lodge No. 46, 1885. The Grand Lodge of the A. O. U. W. of the State of Nebraska was organized June 8, 1886 at Grand Island. It was chartered under the Supreme Lodge, A. O. U. W., but in 1909 became a separate jurisdiction, and its headquarters is located at Grand Island, where it owns its own office building.

From this point on, space will not permit the taking up in detail of every town, as it appears on the list of communities settled, and a few more cities in different parts of the state will be selected, to illustrate the spread of the various denominations and orders throughout the state.

*Kearney* (1866). The first church organized in Kearney was the Methodist Episcopal, October 20, 1871, by Elder A. G. White and Rev. A. Collins; Presbyterian, 1872; Congregational, 1872; Baptists built in 1878 and Christian in 1879, and Episcopalians in 1882. The Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1875.

Robert Morris Lodge No. 45, A. F. & A. M., organized in 1875; Buffalo Lodge 38, I. O. O. F., 1873; G. A. R., 1874; Good Templars, 1873; W. C. T. U., in 1873.

*North Platte* (1866). The first school was taught in a small log house in 1868. The first church services in North Platte were held by a Rev. Mr. Cooke, a Lutheran minister. The Baptists built the first church in 1871. The Episcopal Church was built in 1873. The Catholic, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Lutheran and Methodist built later in the '70s.

*Lincoln* (1867). The first school in Lincoln was taught in a small stone schoolhouse, built by the directors in the fall of 1867, and situated at the corner of Q and Eleventh streets. After the school had graduated to a better building, this landmark became a temporary bastille for the confinement of the offenders against the peace of the city.

The first church organized in Lincoln was the Congregational, on August 19, 1866, or in fact this was in Lancaster, as the place was then named. The other denominations came in soon after the location of this fair, Capital City; German

Methodist, 1867; Methodist in the spring of 1868 with their first house of worship on Tenth Street; Roman Catholic, in 1868, and their beautiful St. Theresa edifice built in 1879; Presbyterian, 1869; Episcopal, November 17, 1868, with a vestry chosen in May, 1869; Baptist, August 22, 1869; Christian, winter of 1869; Universalist, September 1, 1870; African Methodist, 1873; Colored Baptists, 1879; Lincoln not only started out with numerous churches, but no city of its size ever more faithfully, loyally and sincerely supported church work and moral reforms of every creed, purpose and description. Having grown to a city with a student population of approximately seven to nine thousand within its gates nine months in the year, attending the State University and almost a dozen other colleges and schools within its borders and suburbs, this community feels a special responsibility to keep a wholesome atmosphere tending to the student welfare; even at the expense of certain pleasures for its own citizens that many other communities accept.

Four chapters of the Masonic order were early instituted in Lincoln: Lincoln Lodge No. 19, 1868; Lancaster Lodge, No. 54, 1874; and the Chapter No. 6, R. A. M., 1878, and Commandery No. 4, 1871. The Odd Fellows instituted three lodges: Capital No. 11, 1868; Lancaster, No. 39, 1873; and Germania, No. 67, 1878; K. P. P. Lincoln Lodge No. 16, 1873, and the various orders came in as rapidly as possible during the '70s and early '80s.

*Schuyler* (1869). Early churches were Presbyterian, 1869; Methodist Episcopal, 1869; Holy Trinity Parish of Episcopal, July 4, 1870; St. Paul's Catholic, organized in 1879; and Seventh Day Adventists, 1881.

Acaeia Lodge No. 34, A. F. & A. M., June 19, 1872; Schuyler Lodge No. 28, I. O. O. F., July 8, 1871; Sheridan Post, No. 34, G. A. R., February 25, 1880.

*Wahoo* (1869). Schools were started in Wahoo and at section 26, three miles north of Wahoo, shortly after the first settlements, and a school house was built in the country as early as 1870.

The Congregational society organized in Wahoo, in 1870, but services had been held for two years preceding in the schoolhouse. The Fremont and Wahoo Reformed Presbyterian Church was organized in 1871; the Methodist's first class in 1873; Catholic parish was organized in 1879, and Baptist in 1876.

Masonic Lodge here was started January 30, 1875, and Pioneer Lodge, C. S. P. S., March 24, 1878.

*Blair* (1869). First school, 1869, taught by Miss Sarah E. Kibby, though in 1868 Miss Lida M. Newall taught in the same little log house. Methodist Episcopal church moved over from Cuming City in the summer of 1869. Congregational work started February 12, 1870; Baptists, April, 1869, and their building was brought over from Cuming City in the fall of 1872. United Brethren built in 1879 and the Catholics late in the seventies. Cuming City Lodge No. 21, Masonic, chartered June 25, 1868, and name changed in November, 1869, to Washington Lodge. The Odd Fellows were instituted October 1, 1869; John A. Dix Post of G. A. R., organized July 2, 1880.

*Fairbury* (1869). The first school, in 1870, taught by Dr. R. S. Chapman. The early churches were, First Baptist, July 3, 1878, but services had started in 1870; Methodist, established October, 1870; Presbyterian, January, 1871; Christian, October, 1871; Fairbury Lodge No. 35, A. F. & A. M., 1871; Lodge No. 54, Odd Fellows, 1874; Russell Post No. 77, G. A. R., September 19, 1881.

*Norfolk* (1869). The first church building was erected in the fall of 1867 by the German Lutherans. This congregation built a nice structure in 1878 and a second German Lutheran congregation also built that year. Congregationalists built in 1872, the Catholics in 1882, and the Methodists and Episcopalians in the meantime. Mosaic Lodge No. 55, A. F. & A. M., started October 1, 1874; Norfolk Lodge No. 46, I. O. O. F., June 10, 1874.

*Madison*. This town was settled in 1875, and is county seat of Madison County. The Presbyterian Church was organized here in 1870; Catholic, 1880; Lutherans, 1875.

*Seward* (1870). Early churches organized in Seward were: First Presbyterian, August, 1867, church built in 1870; First Methodist, as a mission in 1869, formally organized July 9, 1870; First Missionary Baptist, March 1, 1870; St. John's Lutheran, March, 1874; German Evangelical, 1877; United Brethren, 1879. Oliver Lodge No. 38, A. F. & A. M., July 29, 1871; I. O. O. F., Seward Lodge No. 26, instituted May 30, 1871; Seward Post No. 3, G. A. R., December 16, 1880.

*Milford* (1866). In Seward County the Congregational Church organized April 10, 1869; Baptist, in summer of 1870; Methodist Episcopal had a mission at Milford as early as 1866. Emmanuel Evangelical Church was organized in May, 1880. Blue River Lodge No. 30, A. F. & A. M., chartered April 25, 1870; Milford Lodge No. 18, I. O. O. F., chartered May 30, 1870; Winslow Post, G. A. R., mustered in September 1, 1880. J. H. Culver, Company K, First Wisconsin Infantry, one of the charter members of this post, has been a leader in G. A. R. work in Nebraska, and he and numerous associates were instrumental in securing a soldiers' home for Milford.

*York* (1870). The school district was organized June 14, 1871. The organization of the Methodist class was perfected in the spring of 1871 at the David Baker home. Ex-Judge W. E. Morgan took charge of this as the York Mission, which then included the entire county. The Presbyterian church organized July 23, 1871, in a group of clubs. St. Joseph's Catholic was started as a mission in 1877. Congregational Church, 1872; Universalist, 1880. York Lodge No. 56, A. F. & A. M., granted dispensation August 2, 1874; York Lodge No. 35, I. O. O. F., chartered October 2, 1872; Robert Anderson, Post No. 24, G. A. R., mustered in during summer of 1880.

This brings us to 1874, a year in which a myriad of towns were settled, and to prolong this review would only be to repeat the points already emphasized, though we give credit to the pioneers of communities just as much entitled to a review as those that have been so far treated.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA

This brief review of the development of Nebraska would not be complete without a brief chronological charting of the many wonderful institutions of higher education built up in Nebraska. This state has taken an interest in education far surpassed by any commonwealth in the country. The separate history of practically every county in the state will show that the schoolhouse arrived about the same time as the first log houses, the courthouse, or any business houses,

In fact, many of the first schools of the state, like the Church Sabbath schools started in the living room of some good mother who not only realized the necessity of giving instructions to her own children, but gathered under her wing those of her neighbors. From the small soddy or rough hut of logs and rough boards, the school house soon graduated to a small building of its own, which it generally shared with the Sunday and mid-week evening church services, until the church also was housed in its own home. But Nebraska has not stopped with the graded schools and its wonderful high schools, but it has a myriad of small colleges and several larger universities. Its State University has enjoyed such a phenomenal growth in attendance that it has up to date been impossible to keep an adequate building program moving as fast as the university's growth and physical needs. The attendance of this institution places it in the rank of the foremost dozen schools of the nation. But no adequate amount of credit can ever be given to the various denominations of this state, who have fostered and developed a group of small colleges, not so important in quantity of attendance, but surpassed by no schools, big or little, east or west, in the quality of their work, the splendid atmosphere and cultural opportunities they afford.

1855. The Congregational people were the pioneers of higher education in Nebraska. Just as these people fostered the foundation of Harvard in 1636 and Yale in 1701, they came into Nebraska as early as 1858 and took measures to lay the foundation of a "literary institution of a high order in Nebraska." This resulted in the foundation of a school located at Fontanelle, in February, 1855, known as the Fontanelle School, which was transferred to the Congregationalists in 1858. Fontanelle missed the distinction of becoming a railroad center. Fremont secured the county seat of Dodge County and Fontanelle was set over into Washington County, and all of these circumstances conspired against its becoming a school center, with the ultimate result that this institution was abandoned, and the new Doane College at Crete became its successor in 1872.

1863. The institution with longest continuous existence in the state is Brownell Hall, a girl's school at Omaha started by the Episcopal Church. Bishop Talbot had purchased a property in 1861 in old Saratoga, at what is now Twenty-fourth and Grand Avenue, of the City of Omaha. A girl's boarding school was started soon thereafter and named "Brownell" in honor of the Bishop of Connecticut, a diocese from which considerable financial aid was being received for this work.

1869. *The University of Nebraska* was the next educational institution in point of time, and the first great educational endeavor of the state. The legislature in 1869 founded this university and provided for its organizations by legislative acts, also in 1875 and 1877. Students were received first in 1871 and its growth has continued until it has reached the neighborhood of approximately five thousand.

The congressional act of 1862 had provided for an endowment of land in each state for the maintenance of at least one college in each state. Nebraska's share of such land amounted to 90,000 acres, and the enabling act of 1861 set aside seventy-two sections of land for this purpose, the grant also requiring that instruction must be given in military training. The legislative act of 1869 fixed the board of regents at twelve, but the constitution of 1875 fixed this board at six members, elected at large, for six year terms, the new constitutional amendments of 1920 fixing the election of these regents by districts. The university act also provided for a model farm on two sections of agricultural lands, and this enter-

prise was located about two miles and a half from the main campus, and has developed into the large "State Farm" or Agricultural College campus. The university has spread its activities now, so that in addition to the two campuses in and about the city of Lincoln, it has a large medical college and state hospital at Omaha; an agricultural college at Curtis, an irrigation college at Scottsbluff, and experimental substations at North Platte, Valentine and Scottsbluff.

The University of Nebraska has been fortunate in the high character and standing of the men who have held the office of chancellor. These men have been: Allen R. Benton, January 6, 1870, to June 22, 1876; Edmond B. Fairfield, June 23, 1876, to 1883; Dean E. B. Hitchcock, acting chancellor, 1883, to January 1, 1884; Irving J. Manett, January 1, 1884, to June 1, 1889; Charles E. Bessey, acting chancellor, January 1, 1889, to August 1, 1891, and Dean Bessey preferring remaining in charge of the botany work to assuming permanently either the responsibilities of the executive administration of the great school or accepting any of the many more lucrative offers he received in the latter years of his life from other schools; James H. Canfield, August 1, 1891, to September 1, 1895; George E. MacLean, September 1, 1895, to September 1, 1899; Charles E. Bessey served again from September 1, 1899, to August 1, 1900; E. Benjamin Andrews, August 1, 1900, to January 1, 1909; Samuel Avery, acting chancellor, January 1, 1909, to May 20, 1909, when he was made chancellor. Professor Avery was head of the Department of Chemistry and was chosen as a result of desire to select some man from the staff of the university, an alumnus and a thorough Nebraskan rather than to import an educator for this responsibility. Chancellor Avery is still serving in 1921, but during his absence in war service in 1918 Dean W. G. Hastings of the Law College was acting chancellor.

The buildings of the university include not only the old familiar landmarks, such as University Hall, built in 1869-70; Chemical Laboratory, 1885-6; Grant Memorial Hall, 1888; Nebraska Hall, 1888-9; Boiler House, 1889; Electrical Power House, 1891; Library Building, 1892 and 1896; Mechanics Art, 1898, but also the many new buildings at the farm campus, and the new Bessey Hall, Social Science Hall and the other buildings being erected in accordance with the new program adopted in 1914 and 1915.

The compiler of this historical review is going to depart at this point from his prevailing rule of brevity which is shutting out of this work many things he knows the readers would appreciate, to include a rather lengthy address delivered on Charter Day, February 15, 1881, by Prof. Samuel Aughey, one of the first professors, to whom we are indebted for many of the facts concerning the geological and natural features of Nebraska. In the compilation of the lengthy History of Nebraska in 1882 by the Western Historical Company, it was seen fit also to insert this. It will give the reader an early history not only of the State University, but also of the difficulties and struggles of early higher education in Nebraska.

"The Territorial Legislature of 1865 and 1866 prepared a State Constitution, which was submitted to the people June 2, 1866. It was preceded by a somewhat bitter discussion. Among the arguments urged for its adoption was the fact that the sooner it was accomplished the finer the lands that could be obtained for educational and internal improvement purposes. After the vote was taken the constitution was declared carried. One of the provisions of the enabling act was that lands for an agricultural college and university must be accepted within three years, and



colleges opened within five years afterwards. The trust was accepted by the State, and it received from the general government the promised gift. It is questionable whether the lands for internal improvements were wisely expended. Fortunately, however, the lands for the endowment of the agricultural college and university remain comparatively intact, and a wise provision of law prevents them from being squandered. The leasing and sale of them is so regulated as ultimately to secure a princely endowment for these institutions.

"The Legislature that met in January, 1869, passed an act on the 15th of February—twelve years ago—to establish a state university, vesting its government in a board of regents, to be appointed, in the first instance, by the governor, who was ex-officio chairman; the superintendent of public instruction and the chancellor of the university being also members of the board. Under the new constitution the government is vested, as is well known, in a board of six regents, whose terms of office last six years, two new ones being elected every two years by the people. Previous to this—June 14, 1867—in the act for locating the seat of government, the agricultural college and the state university were united.

"By an act of February 15, 1869, the governor, secretary of state, and auditor were appointed to sell the unsold blocks in Lincoln owned by the state, and to locate and erect a university building. Of the sum realized in this way, \$100,000 was appropriated for this purpose. On the following first of June the plans and specifications prepared by M. J. McBird, then of Logansport, Indiana, were accepted by the capital commissioners for the university building. These plans were submitted to the board of regents June 3, 1869, and accepted, subject to any modifications which they might suggest. The contract for building was given to D. J. Silver & Son, of Logansport, Ind., on the same day. About the middle of July, the contractors commenced work, and the walls were so far completed by September 23, that the corner stone could be laid, which was done with Masonic ceremonies, under the management of the Grand Lodge of the State. The committee of citizens who had charge of the ceremonies raised a subscription among themselves and hired a band in Omaha for \$375 and expenses. They traveled here all the way from Omaha in carriages. A free banquet to all the citizens from abroad was also given by the people, at their own expense. The basement was completed during the first week in December. In the meantime the architect had made such changes and amendments in the plan of the building as the regents had indicated. These changes greatly increased the cost of the building. The contract for completing the university was finally given to D. J. Silver & Son, in pursuance of advertisements, for \$128,480, which, with the previous cost of the excavation and basement, made the entire cost \$152,000.

"The contractors for the university pushed the work with remarkable energy. At this day it is hard to realize the disadvantages under which they labored. The lumber was shipped from Chicago to East Nebraska City, four miles east of the Missouri in Iowa, opposite to the present Nebraska City. It was hauled to Lincoln in wagons, over wretched roads, a distance of sixty-five miles. The contractors paid \$10 a cord for wood with which to burn brick, and which was hauled from twenty to thirty-five miles. On April 7, 1870, the brick work was commenced, and though there was an interruption of three weeks for want of brick, the walls were completed and the roof on by the middle of the following August. In eighty-two days 1,500,000 brick were made and put in these university walls. The university

building has from that time been under the guardianship of the board of regents. They determined to open it the year following its completion. By their permission this chapel was used for various literary entertainments, up to the time of its formal opening, on September 7, 1871.

"Here let us pause to consider the step which this then infant state took in undertaking the establishment of a university. When the bill establishing a university became law on February 15, 1869, the population was barely 100,000. Even the few high schools that existed could barely prepare students for the freshman class, and very few students anywhere were in such stage of preparation. The state, too, was mainly settled by persons of comparatively small means, seeking homes for themselves and families. Little of the prairie had yet been brought under agricultural subjection. The state was rich prospectively, but really poor practically. And yet it was proposed to establish such an institution several years in advance of the time required by the United States law, in order to hold the large grants of land for the support of the agricultural college and university. Under these circumstances many claimed that it would be wiser to wait for an increase in population and wealth, and the building up of preparatory schools before inaugurating such an enterprise. Others again wished to relegate the higher education wholly to the Christian denominations, by whom for generations it had been controlled in the Eastern States.

"Against these arguments, on the other hand, it was urged that a new state could not too early establish the higher educational institutions. That the most distinguished colleges in the East originated during the infancy of the commonwealths which they have made glorious; that Massachusetts, for example, owes her political and intellectual glory to the fact that Harvard has for generations, and from its earliest history, been training her sons; that Yale performed the same duty for another colony, and is now great because she, too, began her career so early in the history of the commonwealth which she also is making illustrious. There were others, too, who felt at that time, and urged it upon the people of the state, that the time had come when an advance should be made on traditional methods of education. The state had provided a magnificent free school system. To perfect that scheme, the higher education needed to be furnished to the youth of the state on the same terms as the common schools provided elementary instruction. To do this, a university was needed—a university 'by the people and for the people'—an institution which should be expressive of intellectual life, not of the past or present, but of all time.

"There were many advanced spirits in Nebraska even at that early day. They realized that culture was something desirable for its own sake. Prairies indeed had to be subdued, but other interests besides that of the dollar were most desirable, and among these culture in distinction from mere knowledge, technical or general, was regarded as most important. There was another class more limited than the former in influence and numbers, that desired a university solely because of the advertisement which it would give the state abroad. They held, and that truthfully, that an institution of learning of high grade would attract the cultivated emigrants into our borders, and be the most powerful factor in securing the settlement of this infant commonwealth. Others again, and this was a still smaller class, a class that had received a one-sided impulse, by a narrow range of reading and study, could see no good in a university unless its professors devoted themselves wholly to studies in

natural history or physics. They pointed to the unstudied resources of this new state, to its comparatively unknown botany, zoology, and geology, and claimed that the making known what the State was and could be made to be in these particulars was itself justification enough for the establishment of a university.

"It should also ever be remembered that the public sentiment that established the university was mainly created by young or comparatively young men. The early legislatures of the state were principally made up of such. These young men were exceptionally able and enterprising, and came here to help create a commonwealth when the effort meant personal risk, sacrifice, and toil of unusual severity. To reach Nebraska twenty years ago involved the crossing of Iowa in stage coaches through a sparsely settled region for half the distance, or a longer and more tortuous journey by boat from St. Louis. Many of the young men who came here at that early day have reached great distinction in the professions, in business, or in politics. I need only refer to Hon. J. M. Woolworth, A. J. Poppleton, E. S. Dundy, of the U. S. Court, C. Briggs, O. P. Mason, T. M. Marquett, and others who have won great distinction at the bar or on the bench, or both. Dr. George L. Miller, J. Sterling Morton, R. W. Furnas, J. M. McMurphy, Bishop Talbot, Lieut. Isaac T. Webster (now professor of military science in this university) and brother, and Professor Dake, of blessed memory, also came early, and the most of them at the first organization of the Territory. Ex-Senator Hitchcock, and the present U. S. senators, were also among the first settlers of the state. These then young men, and others to whom I can not even allude, who have since won great distinction, and possessed abilities and character to make them marked in any state, moulded this young commonwealth. The most of them have been, and still are, the warm friends and supporters of this university, and no better evidence of this can be given than the eloquent and able literary addresses with which they honored us on opening and on commencement occasions. Every lawyer and every judge knows that the statutes framed by the young men referred to in the early legislatures of the state, while yet a territory, are remarkably luminous and able compared with the laws which have been enacted in our later history."

"It has long since been observed that the best endowment of a university is the endowment of commanding and noble intellect and character. Such an endowment alone makes a university possible—makes it the center of intellectual light and quickening influence. With such characters this university was blessed in its early history. Whether it has fulfilled the promise of its youth it is not for me to say on this occasion. It is not, however improper to express the conviction that after years will recognize the fact that even now magnificent work is being done, work that will blossom into beauty and noble achievements. It is one of the infirmities of mankind that character often is not appreciated or understood until it is separated by distance or removed by death. I have myself even yet, after many disappointments, unbounded confidence in the final success of this institution. It is a creature and a child of the state and the age. The training already given here, the young men and women sent forth from these walls into the battle of life, the literary work, and scientific work done here, are an earnest of a glorious future. Students themselves, their character, their work, their attainments, their abilities acquired in the studies and literary contests of the university, along with that of the faculty, are a force that must lift this university in the order of nature into a prominence and a power for good, second to no other in the great republic."

In addition to its regular functions of higher education, various departments of the university have by legislative action been made official state departments in charge of the particular activity. Some of these are: the work of the Agricultural College in handling farmers' institutes; farm demonstrators; the agricultural extension bureau, which is the state department in charge of various county and local farm bureaus; state vocational education, as the teacher training school for the training of teachers for Smith-Hughes agricultural-vocational educational courses in high schools; home economics section of university extension service; the professor of entomology (Prof. Lawrence Bruner is the state entomologist in charge of the work of "investigation, control and extermination of insect pests and plant diseases"), and the professor of geology is the state geologist (Prof. E. H. Barbour), and George E. Condra is in charge of the work of the Nebraska Conservation and Soil Survey, a department which has performed wonderful service in the various county and district "soil surveys" of Nebraska. The professor of botany is the state botanist, and the professor of that subject at the experiment station is the state plant pathologist. The Legislative Reference Bureau is another department of the university which has done invaluable work in collecting, compiling and publishing historical, legislative and legal data and information. This department has compiled the recent issues of the Nebraska Blue Book, and its head, Hon. Addison E. Sheldon, has not only compiled several smaller works on Nebraska history, but his "Annals of Nebraska" in the 1915 Blue Book is the pioneer presentation of Nebraska history in any systematic condensed, chronological style.

1869-1889. The majority of the higher educational institutions of the state were founded in the two decades following the elevation of Nebraska into statehood. It will only be possible to present the order of foundation of these institutions and to classify them by sources of support.

1872 (Doane College at Crete). This school was the successor of the school fostered by the Congregational people at Fontanelle. An Academy had been located at Crete in 1871, but this school started there in 1872 and has grown into an institution with an attendance of around two hundred, but a standing for scholastic quality surpassed by no school in the Middle West.

1874 (Creighton University). This is the second largest school in Nebraska and received its impetus from a provision in the will of Mr. Edward Creighton, and a later provision in the will of his wife, providing for the establishment of a school of the class and grade of a college in Omaha. The school was incorporated on August 14, 1879. It has grown to be a great university with not only the university courses, and academy, under the administration of the Jesuit Order, but great colleges for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and law. The medical department received the name of the "John A. Creighton Medical College," established in 1892, through the beneficence of "Count" John A. Creighton, brother of Edward Creighton. The Edward Creighton Institute became the home of the dentistry and law departments, until the recent erection of new buildings upon the main campus.

1880. Mr. Henry T. Clarke, then of Bellevue, gave to the Presbyterian people in 1880, 261 acres of land as a site for a college. The college was opened in 1883. This school is still a wonderfully efficient link in the chain of educational institutions of the state.

1881. The people of Hastings had tried as far back as 1874 to interest the

Presbyterian synods in the establishment of a college at that point. But even the acquisition of a school of that denomination by Bellevue, did not stop them and they continued their efforts until steps were taken in September, 1881, toward a Presbyterian academy at Hastings, which was incorporated as Hastings College, May 10, 1882. The education work began in September, 1882, and has continued without interruption for practically forty years.

1884. The Baptists of the state had been looking forward since their first convention in 1867 toward establishing an institution of learning. This desire took form in 1884 by the formation of a society, which accomplished the establishment of Grand Island College, and the same was opened in 1892, with thirty-two students in attendance. It has flourished spasmodically as the years have passed, and in 1920 is entering a new era in its existence, with the location of the Nebraska State Convention headquarters at Grand Island and a recentering of the efforts, financial and otherwise, of this denomination upon making this one of the great schools of the state.

1887. In this year the Nebraska Christian Missionary Society resolved to "receive and accept propositions" looking toward the incorporation of a Christian university. This resulted in the acquisition of some three hundred acres of land north of Lincoln, in the suburb of Bethany and the establishment of Cotner University there. The institution has grown to the point of having two colleges, liberal arts and medicine, of the latter of which Dr. Frank L. Wilmeth is president. Dr. William P. Aylsworth who served for more than fifteen years as chancellor of this institution was an important factor in its success.

This year (1887) saw the arrival of an institution of learning at University Place, another suburban town near Lincoln, destined to become one of the three or four largest in the state. The Methodist people had supported a college at York, Nebraska, since 1879, the York Seminary, opened in 1880. They also had a conference seminary at Central City, some forty miles distant, started in 1884. An institution called Mallalieu University had started at Bartley in 1886. A commission of five members from each conference and three from each school met at Lincoln late in 1886 and decided to center the efforts of this denomination upon a school located at a townsite laid out and named "University Place." This resulted in the foundation of Wesleyan University.

1890. Ground was broken in April, 1890, for another educational institution around Lincoln, with the location of Union College by the Seventh Day Adventists at College View.

#### NEBRASKA COLLEGES

*Source of Support.* The foregoing roster of Nebraska higher education institutions is by no means complete. But to make this subject more completely covered, even at the expense of some repetition, it may not be amiss to relist these schools and numerous other educational institutions by another method of classification.

#### SUPPORTED BY THE STATE

*The University of Nebraska.* Lincoln, already covered at more length than any other Nebraska school. The State Agricultural School of State University, at Lincoln; State Agricultural School, at Curtis; State Irrigation School and experi-

mental station, Scottsbluff; State Medical College and Hospital, Omaha; State experimental schools, Valentine and North Platte.

*State Normal School at Peru.* This was established by legislative act passed March 1, 1867, immediately after admission of the state to the Union. Col. T. J. Majors and William Daily were members of the Legislature and helped to fruition plans laid in Peru as early as 1865. It would not be amiss to pause long enough to pay passing tribute to the twelve men who have served at the head of an institution in existence for almost fifty-five years. J. M. McKenzie, 1867-1871; Henry H. Straight, 1871; A. D. Williams, 1871-72; Gen. T. J. Morgan, 1872-1875; L. S. Thompson, 1875-1877; Robert Curry, 1877-1883; George L. Farnam, 1883-1893; A. W. Norton, 1893-1896; J. A. Beattie, 1896-1900, who in recent years has been a prominent compiler of Nebraska history; W. A. Clark, 1900-1904; J. W. Crabtree, 1904-1910, and D. W. Hayes, since 1910.

*State Normal School at Kearney.* This school was established by the Legislature of 1903 to serve the western, central and southwestern parts of the state, which complained that Peru was too far east. More than ten towns sought this institution, but Kearney was the successful contestant. The first building was completed in December, 1905. Prof. A. O. Thomas later state superintendent of public instruction was president until 1914, when George S. Dick succeeded him, and G. H. Martin is now head of this school.

*State Normal School of Wayne.* This school was taken over by the state in 1910, after nineteen years' existence as a private normal school, under the management of President J. M. Pile. Prof. U. S. Conn, then superintendent of city schools of Columbus, was chosen by the State Normal Board and has continued as president of this school since its acquisition by the state.

*State Normal School at Chadron.* The Legislature of 1909, in addition to making the provision that resulted in acquiring the school at Wayne, provided for a similar state normal school in the northwestern part of the state, and Chadron was the successful contestant among the towns that sought that institution. An academy fostered by Congregational churches since 1888 laid the foundation for higher educational work at Chadron. Joseph Sparks was president of this school the first seven years after the state took it over, and Robert I. Elliott has served since 1916.

#### DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS

Of course, numerically, the vast majority of higher educational institutions in Nebraska have been established, fostered and sustained by the various religious denominations of the state.

*Baptist.* The great effort of this denomination has been centered upon Grand Island College, at Grand Island.

*Catholic.* The greatest effort of this church has been likewise centered upon Creighton University, at Omaha. These schools, which have been mentioned at more length earlier in this chapter, will not be so fully elaborated in this section. Of course the Catholic Church in Nebraska has built up and supported numerous other smaller educational institutions in Nebraska, in addition to a system of parochial graded and high schools which reaches almost all of the more important towns and villages of the state, where they have a very numerous membership.

*Christian.* The educational activities of this denomination have been mainly

devoted to two institutions, Cotner University at Bethany, near Lincoln, and its predecessor, Fairfield College at Fairfield, in Clay County. The latter school was opened in 1884 and flourished until after its support was switched over to Cotner.

*Presbyterian.* The comments already furnished concerning Bellevue College at Bellevue, and Hastings College at Hastings, show the early entrance into the educational work and their persistent, continuous application to the same, demonstrated by this church. In addition to these, the Omaha Seminary was opened in Kountze Place, Omaha, in 1902. This developed into the new University of Omaha, which was established in 1915 and is a growing, flourishing institution, continuing not only the seminary work, but full collegiate work, with a law college, and plans to branch into other professional lines when circumstances permit.

*United Brethren.* The work of this church in educational lines was begun at Gibbon in 1886, with the establishment of the Gibbon Collegiate Institute. This school was re-located at York in 1890, which city had not been satisfied since it had lost its original York College in 1886 upon the establishment of Wesleyan University at University Place. The new York College started in 1890, had continued in a gradual growth and steady improvement for twenty years, and is now one of the important smaller colleges of the state.

*Danish Lutherans.* Their work educationally in this state, started at Argo, Neb., in 1884, with a school for future ministers. This developed later into the Trinity Theological Seminary at Blair, the first school of its kind among Danish Lutherans in the United States, and eventually at Blair was built up Dana College, now the leading Danish college of this country.

*Lutheran Church.* The Lutheran Seminary at Seward was founded in 1894, despite the drought conditions then existing, and has grown and prospered ever since then. At Deshler, Thayer County, the Lutherans have build and maintain a splendid institution. The Lutheran High School and Business College, maintained by the Missouri Synod was built at Deshler in 1913. Luther College started at Wahoo in 1882, is a continuing institution.

*Seventh Day Adventists.* This church has Union College at College View, which has become the official educational institution for a territory embracing over twenty states of the Union and reaching into western Canada.

*Methodist Episcopal Church.* The great educational institution of this church in this state has become Wesleyan University at University Place, near Lincoln. Mention has heretofore been made of York College, started in 1879 and later abandoned for Wesleyan; Central City Seminary opened in 1884, and a school at Bartley.

*Congregational.* Doane College has been the central educational activity of this congregation. The early academy at Chadron has been mentioned. These people also in 1881 fostered the organization of an academy at Franklin, Neb. Weeping Water Academy was opened in 1885. A normal training school was maintained for some years for the Santee Indians.

*Lutheran Schools.* The Lutheran Church has maintained schools at Hebron and a number of towns not given above. In 1920 Fremont was successful in securing the removal from Atchison, Kan., of the very successful college, Midland College, built up by the Lutheran people. For many years the late W. H. Clemmons who was state superintendent of public instruction at the time of his death, conducted a very successful business and normal college at Fremont.

## REMARKABLE SHOWING FOR PROUD NEBRASKA

By Eugene O. Mayfield

Fifty years ago one of my early duties was to roam over the long stretches of unbroken prairie of Nebraska, where in the valleys the tall bluestem grew luxuriantly and on the upland shimmered in the sunshine, buffalo grass, as far as the eye could see. Planted by the kindly hand of nature, blossomed millions of cacti, wild roses and other of the most beautiful flowers in the world, among which were scattered profusely clusters of the shoestring, with its entangled root-creepers, buffalo peas and bumble-bee nests with their hoard of honey for the winter days. Then as now, I thought it the most beautiful picture possible—but the picture has faded, to live only in the memory of the pioneers of the West.

Gathering into piles, to be hauled to the farm home, "buffalo chips," was my mission, as it was that of other pioneer lads, the dried droppings of the bison, blistered and cured by the sun, making splendid fuel for winter, and practically all of the fuel that the early pioneers could obtain, trees growing only along the streams.

But fifty odd years have brought great changes. The breaking plow, often drawn by slow-moving oxen, has worked a transformation in the West unbelievable or undreamed of fifty years ago. Today there is but little prairie land, except along the western border, it having dissolved into cultivated farms on which are homes that equal, if not surpass, the best in the great union of states, thousands being modern throughout.

*Pioneer Hardships.* First came the hardships of the pioneers—some of whom remained while some went back to the old home in the East after deciding that the new West was only a desert. Then brighter days came, but only after a long pull against the tide—too, came as time passed, years of hot winds from the southwest that scorched to tinder even the wild grass; grasshoppers that ate up everything down to the earth; shivering cold winters and mountains of icy sleet and snow; storms of wind and rain and hail that laid low the growing crops of sod-corn and small grain.

But Nebraska's hardy pioneers weathered all of these handicaps. They had faith, unbounded, and in the end they won where weaker hearts would have failed and now, from north to south, east to west, one may travel to the confines of the state and see a vast garden and a happy, prosperous people—cities, towns, hamlets; schools, churches and a world of patriotic pride, where fifty years ago were only huts and scattered settlements.

Nebraska is rich in everything one could wish. Its people more fortunate than others, have but few calls to assist the indigent. There are ninety-three counties in the state, with a total population (as near as can be arrived at without the official government census report) of 1,295,502. These figures are based on an increase of 10 per cent during the past ten years, the population of 1910 being 1,192,214. In forty of the counties are no indigent or county poor farms. In fifty-three counties there are poor farms and indigent cared for on the farms, of which 355 are males and ninety-seven females, making a total of but 452 persons entirely kept by all the counties of a state having a population of 1,311,435. A remarkable showing, indeed—one that challenges any other state.



*Homes of the Poor.* These fifty-three counties having poor farms and indigent cared for on them consist of 10,175 acres, cultivated by the counties, or leased for agriculture or hayland and grazing. The valuation placed on this land by the officials is \$2,153,300.

In addition to those cared for on county poor farms the various counties of the state assist in their homes a total of but fifty-three male and female partially indigent, they being supplied from special funds available for that purpose.

Many of the county poor farms have great, roomy homes on them, modernized and beautiful lawns, orchards and flowers.

That each county may have the benefit of its showing, following will be found an authentic report which I have just completed, the facts and figures being taken from the county records—from records that did not exist except in rare instances, during the days when "buffalo chips" were at a premium.

*Remarkable Showings.* Holt County has no county poor farm or building. When there are indigent that require assistance they are assisted from the general fund. O'Neill is the county seat.

Hitchcock County has no poor farm or building. There are no indigent in that county. The county seat is at Trenton.

Pawnee County has no poor farm. At present ten persons are being assisted from the general fund, four males and six females. The county seat is Pawnee City.

Gage County has a 160-acre poor farm, where nine males and three females are cared for. The farm is valued at \$30,000. Beatrice is the county seat.

Wayne County has no poor farm and only one person assisted in the way of paying a part of the house rent. Wayne is the county seat.

Perkins County has a \$12,000 poor farm of 160 acres, but it is not improved. There are about a dozen persons taken care of, in part or in full, in the county. Grant is the county seat.

Chase County has no poor farm or home and no indigent requiring assistance. Imperial is the county seat.

Grant County has no poor farm and only one person, male, who is assisted from time to time as requirements demand. Hyannis is the county seat.

Box Butte County, with Alliance the county seat, has a 320-acre poor farm, on which is a nine-room brick building. Three males are cared for on the farm, the value of which is \$18,000.

Rock County has no poor farm or building. There are only two indigent that the county pays \$16 per month for their keep in private families. Bassett is the county seat.

Furnas County hasn't any indigent. However, it has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$15,000. The county seat is Beaver City.

Morrill County has no poor farm and no indigent. Bridgeport is the county seat.

Gosper County has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$12,800, but no one to occupy it, as there are no indigent in that county. Ellwood is the county seat.

Saunders County, Wahoo county seat, has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$96,000, on which are cared for ten males and two females.

Polk County, Osceola county seat, has a 200-acre poor farm, where are cared for two males and one female. The farm is valued at \$45,000.

Boone County, Albion county seat, has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000.

The farm is rented out and the four female indigent are cared for, in part, by the county supplying them foodstuffs in their own homes.

Hall County, Grand Island county seat, has six indigent, five male and one female, who are cared for in a hospital, and the farm rented out, which consists of 160 acres, valued at \$20,000.

Nuckolls County, Nelson county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$16,000.

Boyd County, Butte county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm. There are four women receiving the mothers' pension.

*Out at Broken Bow.* Custer County, Broken Bow county seat, has a 100-acre poor farm, on which there is a twenty-two-room house, modern throughout, including barns and other buildings, all lighted with electricity from a plant located on the farm. There are five males and two females on the farm. The place is stocked with eight head of horses, twenty head of cattle, nine of which are milked, and eighty-five hogs. There was planted in crops this season 200 acres of corn, sixty acres of wheat, eighty acres of oats and fifteen acres of alfalfa. There are fifteen acres of wild hay, the remainder of the farm being pasture. This modern "poor" farm is valued at \$100,000. It is in charge of a superintendent, matron, maid for house work and needed farm hands.

Sioux County, Harrison the county seat, has but one indigent male who is cared for by the county. The poor farm consists of but one town lot and building, valued at \$1,000.

Thomas County, Hereford the county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm.

Blaine County, Dunning the county seat, has neither poor farm nor need for one. Only one person receives assistance as needed.

Howard County, St. Paul the county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, worth \$12,000.

Jefferson County has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. It cares for seven male inmates. Fairbury is the county seat.

Cuming County, West Point the county seat, has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$64,000. Three male indigent are cared for.

Cheyenne County, of which Sidney is the county seat, has no poor farm and no need for one. No person there is receiving aid directly or indirectly from the county. There is no mothers' pension at present in force. Cheyenne County is said to be the first in the world in the production of wheat, and in many other things ranks near the top notch.

Wheeler County has no poor farm and no indigent. Bartlett is the county seat.

Frontier County has no poor farm. There two indigent, kept by private parties and assisted by the county. Stickville is the county seat.

Richardson County has twelve indigent, ten male and two female. It has a county farm of 120 acres, valued at \$4,000. Falls City is the county seat.

Lincoln County has two male indigent and three females. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$75,000. North Platte is the county seat.

Buffalo County has four male indigent. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000. Kearney is the county seat.

*Only One in Banner.* Banner County has but one indigent, male, kept at a hospital. It has no county farm. Harrisburg is the county seat.

Burt has four male indigent and a 200-acre county farm, valued at \$60,000. Tekamah is the county seat.

York has five indigent, four males and one female. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$50,000. York is the county seat.

Cass County has fourteen indigent, twelve males and two females. It has a 120-acre county farm, valued at \$60,000. Plattsmouth is the county seat. The home is modern and roomy.

Greeley County has no county farm and but one indigent person, who is cared for in a hospital. Greeley is the county seat.

Scotts Bluff County has no poor farm or building. Whenever there is need of assistance the county takes care of the cases by pension, or pays for their keep in private homes. Scottsbluff is the county seat.

McPherson County has six partially indigent, three males and three females. This is one family which is only assisted, and is partially self-supporting. It has no poor farm. Tryon is the county seat.

Clay County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre county farm, valued at \$40,000. Clay Center is the county seat.

Adams County has four male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$60,000. Hastings is the county seat.

Sheridan county has neither county poor farm nor indigent. Rushville is the county seat, and Maud E. Gillispie is the county clerk.

Brown County has no county poor farm or indigent. When occasion demands the poor are assisted by the county. Ainsworth is the county seat.

Loup County, Taylor the county seat, has no poor farm and no use for one, no indigent living in that county.

Hayes County has neither indigent nor county poor farm. Hayes Center is the county seat.

*Knox Has None.* Knox County has no county poor farm and no indigent. Center is the county seat.

Nemaha County has seven indigent, six males and one female. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000. Auburn is the county seat.

Sarpy County has two male indigent. It has a 60-acre poor farm, valued at \$48,000. The indigent now being cared for have only been on the farm one year. Prior to that there were none for several years. Papillion is the county seat.

Pierce County has two indigent, males. It has a 200-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. Pierce is the county seat.

Stanton County has two male indigent and a 20-acre poor farm, valued at \$12,000. Stanton is the county seat.

Keya Paha County has no county poor farm and but one indigent person, male, whom the county assists. He is the first in a number of years. Springview is the county seat.

Valley County has no indigent. It has a 125-acre poor farm, valued at \$18,000. Ord is the county seat.

Lancaster County has twenty-three indigent, twelve males and eleven females. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$75,000. On the farm is a large fireproof modern building that cost \$27,000 four years ago. Lincoln is the county seat.

Merrick County has three indigent, two males and one female, cared for in a

hospital. Central City is the county seat. It has a county farm of 160 acres, valued at \$15,000.

Seward County has four male and one female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$40,000. Seward is the county seat.

Sherman County has one male indigent and three mothers' pension cases. It owns, but rents out, a 320-acre farm, valued at \$60,000. Loup City is the county seat.

Garfield County has no poor farm and no indigent. Burwell is the county seat.

*Dundy in the Clear.* Dundy County has neither county poor farm nor county indigent. Benkelman is the county seat.

Antelope County has no indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$20,000. Neligh is the county seat.

Red Willow County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 40-acre poor farm, valued at \$15,000. McCook is the county seat.

Platte County has five male indigent. It has a 240-acre poor farm, valued at \$85,000. Columbus is the county seat.

Saline County has two male and three female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$80,000. Wilber is the county seat.

Kearney County has neither poor farm nor county indigent. Minden is the county seat.

Otoe County has twelve indigent, ten males and two females. It has one of the most modern county farms in the state, consisting of 160 acres, valued at \$50,000. Nebraska City is the county seat.

Douglas County has 205 indigent, cared for at the county farm, thirty-nine females and 166 males. It has a 40-acre poor farm, modern, valued at \$120,000. Omaha is the county seat.

Dawson County has one male indigent and a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$32,000. Lexington is the county seat.

Johnson County has two indigent, males, and a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$35,000. Tecumseh is the county seat.

Nance County has no county poor farm and no indigent. Occasionally it is necessary to assist the poor, which is done through a county fund. Fullerton is the county seat.

Butler County has three male and one female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$44,000. David City is the county seat.

Webster County has one male and one female indigent. It has a 320-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000. Red Cloud is the county seat.

*Only a Pension Here.* Phelps County has no poor farm and no direct indigent—only one aged male who draws \$12 a month. A few widows draw the mothers' pension. Holdrege is the county seat.

Keith County has one female indigent, who is cared for by the county in a private home. It has a five-acre poor farm, valued at \$2,500. Ogallala is the county seat.

Kimball County has no poor farm or indigent. Kimball is the county seat.

Garden County has no county poor farm or indigent. Oshkosh is the county seat.

Deuel County has neither poor farm nor indigent. Chappell is the county seat.

Thurston County has five indigent that are cared for. It has no county poor farm. Pender is the county seat.

Dodge County has ten indigent, eight males and two females. It has a 245-acre poor farm, valued at \$85,000. Fremont is the county seat.

Fillmore County, Geneva county seat, has eleven indigent, eight males and three females. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$30,000.

*Nothing Doing in Harlan.* Harlan County has neither poor farm nor indigent. Alma is the county seat.

Colfax County has three male and two female indigent. It has a 160-acre county farm, valued at \$56,000. Schuyler is the county seat.

Logan County has no indigent. It has a building used when necessary for the indigent, worth about \$500. Gandy is the county seat.

Dakota County has three male indigent and an 80-acre poor farm, valued at \$20,000. Dakota City is the county seat.

Cedar County, Harrington county seat, has five male indigent, and a county poor farm of 160 acres, valued at \$28,000.

Thayer County, Hebron county seat, has no indigent. It has a 160-acre county farm, valued at \$12,000.

Hooker County, Mullen county seat, has no indigent and no poor farm.

Dawes County, Chadron the county seat, has four male indigent and a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$5,000.

Arthur County has no indigent and no county poor farm. Arthur is the county seat.

Hamilton County has a 240-acre poor farm, on which there are three male and three female indigent. The farm is valued at \$50,000. The county seat is Aurora.

Cherry County has neither county charges nor poor farm. The county seat is Valentine.

Franklin County has a 320-acre poor farm. It has no indigent. The farm is valued at \$64,000. Franklin is the county seat.

Madison County has two male and three female indigent. It has a 160-acre poor farm, valued at \$25,000. Madison is the county seat.

Dixon County has two male indigent at the poor farm, which consists of 160 acres and is valued at \$35,000. Ponca is the county seat.

Washington County, Blair county seat, has three male indigent on its 160-acre poor farm. The farm is valued at \$12,800.

(Reprinted from Omaha World Herald, October, 1920)

## CHAPTER X

### THE PRESS OF NEBRASKA

THE NEBRASKA PALLADIUM—THE OMAHA ARROW—THE NEBRASKIAN—THE NEBRASKA NEWS—THE BROWNVILLE ADVERTISER—THE OMAHA TIMES—EARLY PAPERS BY COUNTIES (taking about first seventy counties in alphabetical order)—NEBRASKA NEWSPAPERS OF TODAY—NEWSPAPERS IN 1920.

The press is the true exponent of the public pulse, and a true index of the character of the people that support it, and in view of that fact it is the intention of this compiler, while he cannot devote an adequate time and space in this work, to give each subject a thorough and elaborate treatment, to dwell at some length upon the history and development of the press of Nebraska.

A vivid portrayal of the rapidity with which the newspaper office followed the first settlers into each community, and the difficulties with which it remained, as evidence by the frequency with which the "voice of the community" personified in its town journal was changed, will probably more than any other thing illustrate the evolution of our great commonwealth.

The details of the struggles of the first few newspapers started in this state have been so well presented in the Andreas' History of Nebraska, 1882, that it is only giving just credit and tribute to that excellent work to reproduce here the story as it was told then, when the compiler of that record could yet get in touch with the living pioneers of the Nebraska press.

#### THE NEBRASKA PALLADIUM

The first newspaper published in Bellevue was also the first paper in the state. This early candidate for public favor was the Nebraska Palladium, which, after issuing fifteen numbers at St. Mary's on the Iowa shore, opposite Bellevue, crossed to the latter place, and then issued No. 16. The full title of the newcomer was the Nebraska Palladium and Platte Valley Advocate. It was published by Thomas Morton, D. E. Reed & Company, editors and proprietors. The first number contained two poems, one of which was "The Seer," by Whittier; a New York letter; a chapter on females, and an extract from the "Reveries of a Bachelor." There were also articles entitled "Newspapers," "Support Your Local Paper," "The Newspaper Press," "Know-Nothing." There was also an article on the "Location of the Capital," and a notice of "Bellevue Claim Meeting." On the first column of the last page is the following announcement: "This is the first column of reading matter set up in the Territory of Nebraska. This was put in type on the 14th of November, 1854, by Thomas Morton." There were also several local advertisements or paid reading notices. Thus we see that: "L. H. Bennett has opened a

boarding house at Bellevue for the accommodation of regular boarders and occasional visitors, who he will take pleasure in making as comfortable as lies in his power." This is followed by an advertisement of "W. R. English, collector, general land agent, counselor at law, etc., Bellevue, Neb. Having an experience of seventeen years in the Territory, will pay prompt attention to all communications in regard to the Territory, etc. Office near the Government building, and in rear of P. A. Sarpy's banking house." This first issue also contained advertisements of C. E. Watson, land agent and surveyor, and of Peter A. Sarpy's ferry boat, Nebraska, running between St. Mary's and Bellevue, and St. Mary's, Council Bluffs and Glenwood advertisements.

On the second page in an editorial entitled "The Newspaper Press in Bellevue," occurs the following passage: "The Palladium office was the first newspaper establishment put in operation in Nebraska, and the present number, the first ever issued from the Territory. The first printers in our office and who have set up the present number are natives of three different states—Ohio, Virginia and Massachusetts, namely: Thomas Morton, foreman, Columbus, Ohio; A. D. Long, compositor, Virginia; Henry M. Reed, apprentice, Massachusetts.

"At the very time our foreman had the press ready for operation, the following persons were—not by invitation—but providentially present, to witness its first operation, namely:

"His Excellency, T. B. Cuming, governor of Nebraska, and Mrs. T. B. Cuming; Hon. Fenner Ferguson, chief justice of Nebraska; Mrs. F. Ferguson; Rev. William Hamilton, of the Otoe and Omaha Mission, and Mrs. Hamilton; Maj. James M. Gatewood, of Missouri; Bird B. Chapman, candidate for congress from Nebraska Territory; George W. Hollister, Esq., of Bellevue; A. Vandergrift, Esq., of Missouri; W. A. Griffin, of Bellevue; Arthur Ferguson, of Bellevue; Theodore S. Gillmore, Chicago, Ill.; Miss Mary Hamilton and Miss Amanda Hamilton, of Bellevue. The first proof sheet was taken by His Excellency, Governor Cuming, which was taken from the press and read by his Honor, Chief Justice Ferguson.

"Thus quietly and unceremoniously was the birth time of printing in Bellevue, Neb., celebrated. Thus was the Nebraska Palladium inaugurated into the public service. This event, although to some it may seem unimportant now, will form an epoch in history which will be remembered ages after those present on this interesting occasion are no more.

"The Palladium is issued from Bellevue, a beautiful spot amid the far off wilds of Nebraska, issued in the very wake of heathen darkness, and we might almost say in its midst. We have taken joint possession with the aboriginal occupants of the soil. Our office is frequently visited by the dark children of the forest and prairie, whose curiosity prompts them to witness the operation of the—to them—incomprehensible art by which thought is symbolized and repeated in ever-during forms on the printed page. As the Indian disappears before the light of civilization, so may the darkness and error of the human mind flee before the light of the press of Nebraska."

On April 11, 1855, the Palladium discontinued publication and issued the following pungent manifesto of the cause of such action: "To subscribers and friends: We have against our own desires and that of many ardent friends made up our mind to suspend the issue of the Palladium until a sufficient amount of town pride springs up in Bellevue to pay the expense of its publication."

## THE GAZETTE

The Bellevue Gazette, a six-column folio was started in 1856 by Silas A. Strickland & Co., the company including David Leach and others. This ambitious sheet seemed, like its jovial and well known editor, to desire to please everybody. In its first number it unburdens itself of its intentions in a salutatory, promising the publication of all the newest inventions for the benefit of the mechanic; of the latest news from St. Louis papers, and of letters from the farmers. In the same issue are set forth the excellencies of the Bellevue House, and the readiness of various individuals to barter goods for cash or land for either. There is also a brotherly pat on the back for the Nebraska Democrat, then a novelty in Omaha journalism, published by H. T. Johnson. The Gazette was short lived.

## THE PLATTE VALLEY TIMES

The Platte Valley Times was started on July 31, 1862, by H. T. Clarke & Co. The Times was a five-column folio, and contained besides full accounts of the war, then raging, notices of favorite packets bound up or down the river, and also a poem by "Professor" Longfellow. This was the last attempt to establish a local paper in the town, and the new comer shared very shortly the fate of its older brethren.

The second newspaper to start in Nebraska was at Omaha.

The first paper established in Omaha was the Arrow, printed at Council Bluffs, followed by the Nebraskian, the Times, the Telegraph, the Independent, Republican, Statesman, Herald, Tribune, Bee, News and Telegram. The growth of the press in Omaha is a symbol and measure of the growth of the state. When the first number of the Arrow was issued there was but a limited number within the present limits of Nebraska, and those were largely composed of Indians, traders, etc. There was no telegraph in those days in this region and no railroad, and if the members of the Fourth Estate then prominent, now dead, could rise from their graves they would be astonished at the changes which have been accomplished in the system of artificial communication by rail and telegraph, considered merely as an apparatus for the collection and distribution of news.

## THE ARROW

The first paper published at Omaha was the Arrow, a folio of twenty-four columns and bearing date "Friday, November 28, 1854." with J. E. Johnson and John W. Pattison, as editors and proprietors. It was a weekly and furnished to subscribers at the rate of two dollars per annum, invariably in advance, and aimed to supply "a family paper devoted to the arts and sciences, general literature, agriculture and politics, to the people—sovereigns of the soil."

The prominent feature of the first issue was the Kansas and Nebraska bill, as it passed both houses of Congress, supplemented by editorial notices, an account of an excursion to Bellevue, town sites in Nebraska, plan of Omaha City and the usual complement of editorial and local paragraphs. The advertisements included notifications that "A. W. Babbitt, Street & Turley, James D. Test, Johnson & Casady, C. E. Stone, A. C. Ford, A. V. Larimer, W. C. James, and L. M. Kline, were practitioners domiciliated in Council Bluffs; J. W. Pattison was similarly estab-



lished in Omaha, and others at different points throughout the West. "The Council Bluffs and Nebraska ferry was ready with their new steam ferry boat Marion, to commence crossing at the opening of spring"; proceedings of a claim meeting, and a large amount of advertising, principally confined to patrons residing in Council Bluffs. For a time, or until presses and fixtures arrived, the Arrow was printed at the office of the Bugle in Council Bluffs, and the announcement was made that any "person who within one year from date should send the largest list of subscribers to the Arrow would be entitled to a full Omaha Indian costume to be subject, upon decision, to their order."

The paper presented a neat appearance and for its first issue, considering the obstacles in the way of publishing a journal at all to be compared to those of the present day, dearth of news, etc., was a most creditable production that improved with each succeeding issue. Among the items of interest that appeared subsequently, were the following notices:

There will be preaching at the residence of Mr. Snowdon, in Omaha City, on Sunday the 13th of August, 1854, by the Rev. Peter Cooper of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

A. D. Jones, Esq., has obtained his surveying instruments and now stands ready to do any job in his line when called upon. Persons desirous of purchasing town lots can be accommodated by calling on Dr. J. Lowe or J. A. Jackson. M. W. Robinson has put on a regular line of stages between this place and Council Bluffs; persons visiting this place from Council Bluffs and desirous of returning must be at the ferry landing upon sun down. Persons may receive Omaha City mail matter from the postmaster, A. D. Jones, at Mr. Clancy's provision establishment every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings, etc.

On October 13, 1854, the death of William R. Rogers, aged fifty-four years, is announced, and in the issue of the following week that of Francis Burt, governor of the Territory, followed by the proceedings of a meeting convened to take proper action in this connection at which D. Lindley presided, M. Murphy appointed as secretary and J. W. Pattison, C. B. Smith, A. D. Jones, W. Clancy and C. H. Downs were appointed a committee on resolutions.

On November 3, 1854, pleasure was expressed at seeing the sign of Dr. G. L. Miller, the present distinguished editor of the Herald, hanging out of Mr. E. Bud-dell's residence. The city was congratulated upon the acquisition.

The paper continued for some months but failure to obtain presses, office equipments, etc., prevented its removal to Omaha as was anticipated, and culminated in its suspension before the expiration of the year during which it was born.

#### THE NEBRASKIAN

In 1854, Bird B. Chapman, of Elyria, Ohio, established the Nebraskian at Omaha, in a frame building on Farnam Street, near Fourteenth. Having put his house in order, with a view to future rewards, he began the weekly "grind" as editor. As days came and went, his prospects, from a political standpoint, grew brighter, until the dawn of a perfect day, upon which he was elected as a delegate to Congress from the infant Territory. John Sherman, the editor, was left in charge of the paper, while Mr. Chapman went to the front, and in 1857, Theodore H. Robertson

assumed the ownership. Two years later, M. H. Clark succeeded to the title, and secured the services of Milton W. Reynolds as editor.

During this administration, a daily paper was established, and was run through about three volumes, but the absence of data prevents the presentation of a more extended notice of the same.

In all respects, the *Nebraskian* is represented to have been a credit to its founders, its publishers, its patrons and Omaha City. It labored for the interests of its constituency, and those of the Territory, and did much toward the development of the business interests of the city, the county and the present state. In politics, it was democratic, insisting that the doctrine of that party was not heresy, and that the glories gathered into the national garner for fifty years, were substantial and lasting testimonials of the vitality and correctness of the principles originally propounded by Thomas Jefferson.

On December 18, 1863, Clark & Reynolds sold out to Alfred H. Jackson, until June 15, 1865, when the *Nebraskian*, aged, but aspiring and determined, yielded precedence to the *Herald*, which has since grown to be a power among the democratic organs of the country, and a journal that is by no means the least convincing proof to prosperous Omaha, and the Northwest, of the dependence upon the Fourth Estate, that cities and countries in their success rely.

The occasion is here availed of to deny, on the authority of Doctor Miller, that the *Nebraskian* was "merged into the *Herald*, or that the *Herald* was recreated out of the ruins of the *Nebraskian*." All such rumors are figments of imagination undeserving of consideration.

While the *Palladium and Arrow and Nebraskian* were short lived, another newspaper was moved into Nebraska from Sidney, Iowa, in 1854, destined later to become the *Nebraska News*.

#### THE NEBRASKA CITY NEWS

The printing material with which the *Nebraska City News* was published, was purchased in Sidney, Iowa, by S. F. Nuckolls, H. F. Downs and A. A. Bradford, owners of the town site, the press work of the first number being done in that place, November 14, 1854, with Dr. Henry Bradford as editor. The office was immediately removed to Nebraska City and placed in the old block house, where it remained for some years. In 1855 Thomas Morton purchased the outfit from the town company, J. Sterling Morton being at that time editor, receiving for his services fifty dollars a month. Subsequent editorial changes have been as follows: R. Lee Barrowman, April 13, 1856, to April 15, 1856; J. Sterling Morton, April 15, 1856, to August 26, 1857; M. W. Reynolds, August 26, 1857, to October 19, 1861; Augustus F. Harvey, October 19, 1861, to August 25, 1865; J. Sterling Morton, August 25, 1865, to August 20, 1877; J. Stilson Potter, August 20, 1877, to November 1, 1879; E. D. Marnell, November 1, 1879, to date. The proprietorship has been wholly or in part vested in Thomas Morton ever since his first purchase of the paper. The editorial management has been remarkably able and the paper is now a daily and weekly sheet, democratic in politics from the first. During the Kansas war of 1857, its utterances were decisive, so far so that its office was threatened with destruction and its editor with lynching by Lane and his lawless associates.

This Nebraska News remained the leading journal of the state until outstripped by the Republican and Herald of Omaha. After its change to the name of Nebraska City News in 1858, it continued to serve its public, and it has had an existence of over sixty-five years, the longest record in the state for continuous service, were it not broken by one slight interruption.

The next newspaper to start was the

#### BROWNVILLE ADVERTISER

In the autumn of 1855, Dr. John McPherson came to Brownville, and, pleased with the town and its prospects, determined to remove his printing material from Tippecanoe, Ohio, for the purpose of engaging in the newspaper business. He traded one-half his establishment to R. Brown for Brownville town lots, stipulating to publish a weekly newspaper one year. On the 9th of April, 1856, Robert W. Furnas, who was to have editorial charge of the office, John L. Colhapp and Chester S. Langdon, printers, arrived with the material, and on the seventh day of June, 1856, appeared the first number of the Nebraska Advertiser. From that time to the present the paper has been regularly issued. One of the earliest contributors to the columns of the Advertiser was Dr. A. S. Holladay, who occasionally occupied the editorial chair during the absence of Mr. Furnas. Soon after the publication of the first number of the Advertiser, Doctor McPherson donated his one-half interest in the office to R. W. Furnas, on condition that it should be published as an independent or neutral journal. The restriction was rigidly observed. At that time the territory was strongly democratic. The office was opened in Lake's Block, on Second, between Main and College streets; was afterward removed to McPherson's Block, on the south side of Main between Second and Third streets; at a still later day, to the north side of Main, between First and Second streets.

October 2, 1857, Chester S. Langdon was admitted as a publisher, making the firm Furnas & Langdon. On the 15th of May, 1858, R. W. Furnas assumed control again, and continued in entire charge until November 24, 1859, when L. E. Lyanna became a partner. On the 28th of November, 1861, the Union office was consolidated with the Advertiser, and T. R. Fisher was taken in as a partner. May 8, 1862, Furnas & Fisher were proprietors, with Fisher & Hacker as publishers. [R. W. Furnas had enlisted and gone to the war, as colonel of a Nebraska Regiment.] December 6, 1862, T. C. Hacker withdrew from the office as one of the publishers. July 16, 1863, the names of proprietors of the paper were dropped, only the name of T. R. Fisher appearing as the publisher. In the autumn of 1863, Fisher & Colhapp (the last named came with office to Brownville in 1856), became publishers. September 14, 1864, W. H. Miller became the publisher, and was succeeded December 22, 1864, by George W. Hill and J. H. Colhapp. July 18, 1867, R. V. Muir entered the firm. November 17th of the same year, Jarvis S. Church bought the interest of Hill & Muir, and the firm name became Church & Colhapp. January 23, 1868, T. C. Hacker entered the firm as junior partner and business manager. January 6, 1870, the original publisher, R. W. Furnas, bought out Church, and the firm name became Furnas, Colhapp & Hacker. January 5, 1871, Church & Hacker became the publishers, and July of the same year, Major Caffrey purchased Church's interest, and the firm name became Caffrey & Hacker. This firm remained unchanged until January 22, 1874, when G. W. Fairbrother bought out Major

Caffrey, and the firm of Fairbrother & Hacker continued until December, 1881, when G. W. Fairbrother became sole proprietor. In March, 1882, the material was removed to Calvert, where under the same name, the Advertiser continues to be published. It is now published by G. W. Fairbrother & Co. The Advertiser is republican in politics, and has been so since 1860.

For a few weeks in 1857, a small daily sheet named the Snort, was issued from the Advertiser office, under the editorial supervision of Langdon & Goff. "Old rye" was a legal tender in payment of subscriptions. A score of issues was enough to send the little paper to "the tomb of the Capulets."

In September, 1860, a four-column daily paper, entitled the Bulletin, was issued from the Advertiser office, but proving unremunerative, was suspended in August, 1861.

In 1870, a campaign Daily Advertiser was published for a few months.

The first agricultural journal in the state was established in Brownville, in January, 1859, by R. W. Furnas, and its publication continued three years.

#### THE TIMES

was established in Omaha, June 11, 1857, by W. W. Wyman, and courted popular favor with the assurance that it was

Pledged but to truth, to liberty and law,  
No favor sways us, and no fear shall awe.

It was an eight-column folio, and aimed to furnish to readers a weekly résumé of news, foreign and domestic. Its office was over the postoffice, where it was issued every Thursday, and presumably met public expectations. In politics, it was democratic, but in this particular, as in all others, that would remotely contribute to the development of Nebraska, and the prosperity of the territory, the editors left nothing to be desired. Information was at all times furnished by them to inquirers, and a portion of each issue was devoted to answers to those seeking information relative to lands, markets and other features of frontier life, with which residents at a distance are entirely unfamiliar.

On September 9, 1858, John W. Pattison was admitted as a partner in the concern, and undertook the general conduct of the paper. He was a graphic and forcible writer, long and favorably known throughout the territory, of which he was an old settler, and his co-operation was an invaluable aid to the benefit and prosperity of the Times. He remained, however, but two months, circumstances prevailing to prevent that devotion of time and attention to the paper which was demanded, he severed his connection therewith. The Times, however, survived. Its editorials indicated marked ability, and were couched in candid, courteous language. In addition, the pages contained a choice selection of miscellaneous matter, full and accurate market reports, and a carefully prepared summary of congressional, local and foreign intelligence. In 1859, the Times was merged into the Nebraskian, and on February 26, 1864, with the type and press formerly employed in the composition and publication of the Times, was the obituary of Mr. Wyman promulgated in the Nebraskian.

So truly is the story of the press that of civilization. Its history is that of

the locality in which it is situated. It has made and unmade parties, established and destroyed reputations. It has served as the antiquarian, the historian and the prophet. Day by day it has recorded the history of the state, or allowed, by omission, valuable records to perish. While space will not permit us to take each and every newspaper that has graced the history of Nebraska journalism and trace its rise and fall, its beginning and end, we can at least most certainly afford to stop and review the beginnings of the press in about seventy of the first settled counties of the state, and then take a retrospective view from 1920 of the papers existing after the Nebraska press has had three-quarters of a century life, and note the years of their establishment, and be able to compare the advance by a study of the beginning of this profession—the history of histories—and its present stage of progress.

*Adams County.* The first paper in this county was the Adams County Gazette, started January, 1872, by C. C. and R. D. Babcock. In 1880 it was removed to Hastings and became part of the Gazette-Journal, which had been started there in 1873 by the Wigtons. The Juniata Herald was started in 1876 by A. H. Brown, and has been that town's paper these many years. The Hastings Central Nebraskan started in 1876, and the Adams County Democrat in 1880. Kenesaw had a paper in 1876, The Times, which later became part of the Central Nebraskan, at Hastings.

*Antelope County.* The Oakdale Journal, established in 1874, became the Neligh Journal in October, 1875. The Neligh Independent was the second paper there in 1878.

*Boone County.* The first paper published in Boone County was the Boone County News, in 1874, lasting about six months. The Boone County Argus, started in 1876, "for Boone County first—the world afterward," with W. A. Hutton as editor and publisher. A. W. Ladd started in 1879 the Boone County News, in no way related to its predecessor.

*Burt County.* Tekamah's first newspaper was the Burt County Pilot, in 1871, later moved to Blair in 1874. The next, in 1872, was the Burtonian. Oakland Independent was established in 1880, the Decatur Herald in 1881.

*Buffalo County.* This county can claim the Huntsman's Echo, in 1860, founded by Joseph E. Johnson at Wood River Center. The Central Nebraska Press, at Kearney, was founded in 1873. The Kearney Times was started in 1873, and its outgrowth, the Buffalo County Journal, started in 1880. The Kearney Weekly Nonpareil started in 1878. These have all been superseded by later papers. Kearney, in 1882, had the National Soldier, a paper established for veterans of the Civil war.

*Butler County.* The first papers at David City were the Butler County Press, started in September, 1873, by W. G. Rutherford and Charles D. Casper, and the David City Republican, issued first by Calmer D. McCune, February 6, 1877. Ulysses' first paper, the Dispatch, started May 6, 1880. Rising City Independent started September 17, 1880, by D. O. and C. E. Verity.

*Cass County.* This county, one of the first in the state settled, presents some of the pioneer journals of the state to this roster of early newspapers. The Plattsmouth Jeffersonian, the first paper in Plattsmouth, started early in 1857, with L. D. Jefferis, assisted by J. D. Ingalls. The Platte Valley Times, of Pacific Junction, Iowa, was removed in 1858 to Plattsmouth and came out as the Platte Valley Herald. In 1859 the Cass County Sentinel came forth, published first at Rock Bluffs, and later taken by E. Giles, its editor, to Plattsmouth. The Nebraska

Herald was started in February, 1865. Another Cass County Sentinel started in 1870. A German weekly, the Deutsche Wacht, started in 1875; in 1877, a newspaper outfit was moved from Sarpy Center to Plattsmouth, and the Cass County Chronicle started in 1878. H. M. Bushnell in recent years until his death within the past year, published the Lincoln Trade Review, started in with this paper, and in 1879 started the daily Enterprise at Plattsmouth. The Plattsmouth Journal, as a daily, began in 1881. The extended account of the press of this county serves to illustrate the manner in which many papers have come and gone in the older counties.

*Cedar County.* St. Helena had a paper, the Cedar County Advocate, in 1874, which later moved to Vermilion, Dakota. The Cedar County Bulletin started in 1875, and changed to the Cedar County Nonpareil.

*Cheyenne County.* The first paper in this county was the Sidney Telegraph, the first number of which was issued in May, 1873, by L. Cornell, it being a four-column folio sheet, and being practically the pioneer of the western end of the state.

*Clay County.* The first paper in Sutton was the Times, June 20, 1873. This paper was started by Wellman & Brackman, later owned by Wellman Bros., and then Frank E. Wellman, brother of the Walter Wellman, of Chicago Record-Herald fame of fifteen years or so ago, on the polar expedition. The Clay County Herald, starting June 21, 1873, and Clay County Globe, 1875, were other early ventures at Sutton and the Sutton Register started in 1880. Edgar had a paper in 1875 for a short time, and the Leader started there in 1877. The Fairfield News started in 1877. Harvard started a series of unsuccessful attempts, with the Leader, in 1873, running later to attempts to start the Advocate, the Sentinel and the Journal. Clay Center made a journalistic attempt in 1881, with the Citizen.

*Colfax County.* The first paper in Schuyler appeared as the Register, on September 30, 1871, but soon came out as the Schuyler Sun, which has continued to "shine" for a long time. The next attempt was the Schuyler Democrat, in 1878, which later became the Herald, when James A. Grimison took it over.

*Cuming County.* The West Point Republican was established November 18, 1870; the Progress in August, 1876, and at Nebraska City, the Nebraska Volksblatt and Staats Zeitung, started February 16, 1868, was removed to West Point during the '70s. Wisner had a paper, the Times, for about six months in 1874.

*Dakota County.* The North Nebraska Eagle started at Dakota City in 1876, and the North Nebraska Argus, in 1880.

*Dawson County.* The oldest newspaper of this county was the Dawson County Pioneer, founded November 29, 1873, with Daniel Freeman publisher and T. W. Smith editor. Hon. T. L. Warrington and W. J. Lamma started the Dawson County Press, at Plum Creek, now Lexington, also in 1881.

*Dixon County.* The North Nebraska Journal was started at Ponca in January, 1873. The next paper, the Dixon County Courier, started there in August, 1877.

*Dodge County.* The first paper in this county was the Fremont Tribune, which made its bow to the public July 24, 1868, founded by J. Newt Hays. The Tribune has become one of the best known papers in Nebraska, with Ross L. Hammond for many years its editor, one of the big figures of Nebraska journalism as well as republican politics.

The Fremont Herald, started in 1870, some five years later passed into the hands

of N. W. Samils and became another well-known Nebraska journal. North Bend's first paper was the *Independent*, started in 1879, but it became the *Bulletin* three years later.

*Douglas County.* The first papers in Omaha, the *Arrow* in 1854, the *Nebraskan*, 1854, and the *Times*, have been already mentioned earlier in this chapter. The history of the press in Omaha presents a splendid picture of the rise and fall of journals, the consolidation of others, and the survival of a very few. The *Telegraph* appeared as the first daily paper of Omaha on December 11, 1860. H. Z. Curtis, its owner, ran it until late in 1861 when he closed it and sold the subscription books to M. H. Clark, of the *Nebraskan*. T. H. Tibbles tried the *Independent* in 1877 as an organ of the Independent party, but it lasted only about a year. The *Nebraska Statesman* of 1864 was another short-lived member of the fraternity.

To no journal, and to the single efforts of no man, is the city of Omaha, the county of Douglas, or the State of Nebraska so indebted for the development of internal resources and to the multitude of blessings that a progressive, unselfish newspaper can bestow upon a community as to Dr. George L. Miller, who founded and built up the *Omaha Herald*. This paper entered its existence as a daily on October 2, 1865. All of the prior attempts to establish papers in Omaha, except the *Republican*, had failed. It came out at the start unqualifiedly as a democratic organ. The firm of Miller & Carpenter dissolved in August, 1868, and Lyman Richardson and John S. Briggs took over this journal. This regime lasted but a short time, but Dr. Miller remained as editor, and in February, 1869, took back the controlling interest. The firm of Miller & Richardson continued until March, 1888. Frank Morrissey, one of the associate editors, became editor under the next ownership, that of John A. McShane. After one year R. A. Craig became owner, and Edward L. Merritt was editor. In March, 1889, Gilbert M. Hitchcock, who when associated with Frank J. Burkley, Alfred Miller, William F. Gurley and W. V. Rooker had started the *Evening World*, in August, 1885, took over the *Herald*. The union of the *Herald* with the *Evening World* brought forth the familiar title, *World-Herald*. This paper has been conducted for more than thirty years under the ownership of Gilbert M. Hitchcock, with a brilliant line of editors, including William Jennings Bryan, Richard L. Metcalfe and Harvey E. Newbranch, its present editor, who if he has any peers, at least has no superiors in American Journalism as an editorial writer.

The *Omaha Tribune* started in 1871, but it later consolidated with the *Republican*.

On Monday, June 19, 1871, H. Geralde issued the first number of another Omaha newspaper, destined to be a great factor in the history of Nebraska, the *Omaha Bee*. The gradual growth of this journal furnishes one of the interesting chapters of Nebraska journalism. When it was a few weeks old, Mr. Edward Rosewater appeared as publisher and proprietor, although Mr. Geralde remained as editor. A lithographing department was added to the *Bee* as early as 1878. The controlling interest in this wonderfully successful paper remained in the hands of Mr. Edward Rosewater and his family until his death, and thereafter his son, Victor Rosewater, maintained charge of the paper, until in 1920 it was sold to Nelson B. Updike of Omaha. It has always been a stalwart and even "standpat" republican journal.

In the evening field the Omaha Evening News ventured forth in 1878, backed by Fred Nye of the Fremont Tribune, but it lasted only a couple of years, though in after years it has had an illustrious successor and namesake, the Daily News, a Scripps system or Clover-Leaf system paper, with Joseph Polcar as editor.

The foregoing roster does not in any respect begin to include all of the multitude of newspapers and periodicals that have graced the journalistic field in Douglas County.

*Fillmore County.* In Fairmont the early papers were the Fillmore Bulletin, started May 1, 1872, and the Nebraska Signal, October, 1881. The first paper in Geneva was the Review, in April, 1876. The Grafton Gazette was started in 1881, the Exeter Enterprise in October, 1878.

*Franklin County.* The pioneer paper of this county was the Bloomington Guard, established in 1872 by J. D. Calhoun, later associate editor of the State Journal at Lincoln. Franklin's first paper was the Republican Valley Echo, started by James F. Zediker in September, 1881. Napoleon's first paper was the Banner.

*Furnas County.* The early papers of this county were the Beaver City Times; Oxford and Cambridge first established papers in 1881, but Arapahoe had the Pioneer in July, 1879, and the Mirror was started there in 1882.

*Gage County.* The Blue Valley Record was started at Beatrice in 1867; after changing to the Clarion in 1870, it became the Express, and under that title has continued for over forty years. The Gage County Democrat started in December, 1879, with George P. Marvin as editor, and the service of the Marvin family to Nebraska journalism is one of the longest. Another paper, started in 1873, bore the titles of Sentinel, Republican, Courier, and in 1881 became the Gage County Independent. The Weekly Mirror started at Blue Springs in 1876; in Wymore the Wymorean and the Reporter were the early papers.

*Greeley County.* The first newspaper in this county was the Greeley County Tribune, started at Scotia in October, 1877.

*Hall County.* The first newspaper in Hall County was probably the Huntsman's Echo, in 1860, published by Joseph Johnson, the Mormon editor, at the Wood River Center settlement at the western edge of the county. The first Hall County paper was the Platte Valley Independent, removed in 1870, from North Platte, where Mr. and Mrs. Seth P. Mobley had started it the year before. This paper became the Grand Island Independent and has passed its fiftieth year of continuous existence. The Grand Island Times, established in 1873, flourished as a daily for a time, a semiweekly and weekly at other periods. The Herald was started in 1880. Doniphan had a paper, the Index, started in 1879. The Wood River Gazette started in 1881.

*Hamilton County.* In 1873 J. M. Sechler began publishing the Hamiltonian at Orville. It moved in a few months to Sutton. The second paper started in the county was the Aurora Republican, owned by F. M. Ellsworth and Thomas Darnall, and edited by a Mr. Fox. The Hamilton County News also started at Orville in 1873, later being moved to Aurora.

*Harlan County.* The Standard was founded at Alma in 1879 and became the Herald; and the Harlan County News started first in Republican City in 1875, and was removed to Alma in 1881. The Weekly Enterprise started at Republican City in 1880, and the Sentinel at Orleans was started in 1873, being later taken to Melrose, and then back to Orleans.



*Hitchcock County.* The first paper in this far western county was the Culbertson Globe, started in 1879 by W. Z. Taylor, with Nat L. Baker as editor. John P. Isreal of Ottumwa, Iowa, came out in April, 1881, and took up the publication of the Sun at this point.

*Howard County.* The Phonograph was established at St. Paul in 1878. In 1881 the Democrat and Advocate started there, and consolidated later into the St. Paul Free Press.

*Holt County.* The Holt County Record was started in June, 1879, the first thirty numbers being printed at Niobrara, Knox County, and then it was removed to O'Neill. The Frontier was started on October 1, 1880, by W. D. Matthews. These papers were truly the "frontier" of Nebraska journals for some years to come.

*Jefferson County.* The oldest paper in this county was the Fairbury Gazette, established September 3, 1870, by George Cross; the Southern Nebraska Advance started in August, 1879, at Carleton, Thayer County; removed to Steele City in 1880 and to Fairbury in 1881. Fairbury presents a typical instance of the manner in which early newspaper ventures started up and often time flourished but a short time, as evidenced by the rise and fall of the Times, Independent, Clipper, Telegraph, New West Index and Field Notes, all within a few years' time.

*Johnson County.* The Tecumseh Journal was first published in Brownville in 1867, and sent over to Johnson County for distribution. This plan failed to work acceptably, and in 1868 the Tecumseh Gazette was established by Messrs. Presson & Andrews. G. W. and F. M. Fairbrother in 1869 started the Tecumseh Chieftain, which became the oldest permanent newspaper of the county. Other early papers at Tecumseh were the Herald, 1872; Journal, 1879, and Torchlight, 1880, started by the Fairbrothers after they sold the Chieftain. C. W. Pool, who in recent years served as secretary of state, while editor of the Johnson County Journal also published the Sterling News, which had been established there in 1877, and this town's next venture was the Press in 1881.

*Kearney County.* Minden's early paper was the Bee, which consolidated with the Newark Herald in April, 1882, to form the Kearney County Gazette.

*Knox County.* The Niobrara Pioneer was started in September, 1874, by Edwin A. Fry. Its first rival was the Knox County News, in May, 1879. Editor Fry started the Creighton Regulator April 26, 1882. The Knox County Times was started at Bazile Mills in May, 1881, by C. A. Hammond.

*Lancaster County.* Lincoln was proclaimed the capital of Nebraska, August 14, 1867, and the next day the Nebraska City Press contained the prospectus of a weekly paper to be started at Lincoln. The new candidate for journalistic honors was known as the Nebraska Commonwealth, and its founder was C. H. Gere. Its first number, issued on September 2d, was printed at the Press office, in Nebraska City, but its second number was printed at Lincoln. In the spring of 1869 its name was changed to the Nebraska State Journal. During the campaign of 1869-70 a daily campaign sheet was worked off, and in July, 1870, it became a daily paper. No paper in Nebraska, except it might be the Omaha Bee and World-Herald, has exercised a greater influence upon the history of the state than has the Journal. General Victor Vifquain and associates started the State Democrat, in June, 1879. In February, 1882, Albert Watkins purchased General Vifquain's interest and assumed editorial management. A German paper, the Staats Anzeiger, started in 1881. Erasmus M. Correll, one of the leaders of early Nebraska

journalism, started the *Western Woman's Journal* in 1881, and Lincoln had a farm paper, the *Nebraska Farmer*, started in November, 1877.

*Lincoln County.* The first newspaper venture in this region was the *Platte Valley Independent*, in 1869, by Mrs. Maggie Eberhart, assisted by S. P. Mobley, whom she later married. They went to Grand Island a year later and sold the new venture to Col. J. B. Park and Guy C. Barton, who continued the publication as the *Lincoln County Advocate*. The *North Platte Democrat*, started in 1871, and the *Enterprise*, consolidated as the *Advertiser*, and this paper became the *Republican*. Judge A. H. Church established the *Western Nebraskian* after he sold the *Republican*. The *Telegraph* was started April 14, 1881, by James McNulty.

*Madison County.* The *Norfolk Journal* was started September 15, 1881, by Norton & Sprecher. The *Times* was started September 1, 1880, but lasted only fourteen months and its material went into the new *Journal* office. Madison had the first paper in the county, the *Madison Review*, established in 1874, but it discontinued in 1878, and in 1879 the *Chronicle* was started.

*Merrick County.* The pioneer paper of this county was the *Merrick County News*, which made its first appearance March 21, 1872, at Lone Tree, the county seat. The next paper was the *Lone Tree Sentinel*, with W. H. Webster and George A. Percival as editors. It lasted only until its mission in advocacy of the *Midland Pacific* bonds was accomplished. Mr. Percival and L. Waters, in April, 1874, started the *Lone Tree Courier*, which absorbed the *Merrick County News*. The *Clarksville Messenger* started in May, 1878, and the *Merrick County Item*, January 14, 1880. The *Central City Nonpareil* was started on January 1, 1882, and this proved to be a permanent venture to date, almost forty years later.

*Nance County.* The *Nance County Journal* was the first paper in this part of the country. Its first number was issued in October, 1879, by A. E. Verity. Its name was changed in September, 1881, to the *Lariat*, but soon returned to the old name. The *Nance County Republican* was started by J. N. Reynolds, in October, 1881. Richard Nunnely, commonly known as "Antelope Dick," in July, 1879, started the *Genoa Magnet*, which became the *Leader*, in February, 1880.

*Nemaha County.* The foundation of the *Nebraska Advertiser* has already been mentioned in the early part of this chapter. For a few weeks in 1857 a sheet called the *Snort* was issued from the *Advertiser* office. The *Nemaha Valley Journal* was removed from *Nemaha City* to *Brownville*, but moved back again in a short time. The *Aspinwall Journal* came to *Brownville* in 1861 and was continued but a few months longer. The second *Nemaha Valley Journal*, started in 1867, was later taken to *Falls City*, *Richardson County*. The first paper in *North Auburn* was the *Sheridan Post*, established in 1879 by F. B. Tiffany.

*Nuckolls County.* The *Elktonian*, started in 1872, was the first paper in this county—printed in *Lincoln* and issued in *Elkton*, an aspirant for the county seat. The *Southwestern Chronicle* and *Inter-Ocean* were established at *Nelson* in 1875, but soon removed to *Fairfield* and became the *News* there. The *Nuckolls County Herald* was established in 1877. Hardy had a weekly paper, the *Herald*, in *June*, 1882, and the *Clipper*, a semi-monthly real estate publication, familiar in those days.

*Otoe County.* The *Nebraska City News* has been heretofore mentioned. The *People's Press* started in the spring of 1858. It became the *Press and Herald* and later the *Nebraska Press*. In 1872 it became the *Press and Chronicle*, and

finally dropped the latter name and became known as the Press. The Nebraska Deutsch Zeitung, later known as the Staats-Zeitung, started in 1861. Short-lived journalistic attempts were the Star of the West, at Otoe City, and the Phunny Phellow and the Daily and Weekly Chronicle as started in August, 1868. The Nebraska City Daily Sun was started April 29, 1879.

*Pawnee County.* The first paper in the county was the Pawnee Tribune, started in August, 1868. Its successor was the Republican, the name it assumed in 1872. The Enterprise was started at Table Rock in August, 1877, and was moved to Pawnee City in 1878.

*Pierce County.* The first paper in this county was the Pierce County Call, established October 6, 1877, at Pierce.

*Phelps County.* Two papers started at Phelps Center late in the '70s. They were the Nebraska Nugget and the Phelps County News.

*Platte County.* The first paper published in Columbus was the Golden Age, started on June 21, 1866. The next one to be issued was the Platte Valley Journal, which was followed soon by the Columbus Journal, first issued May 11, 1870. The Columbus Gazette was started in March, 1881. The Independent was first issued in 1878. In May, 1875, the Columbus Republican had been started, which Calmer McCune later moved to David City. The Era, which later became the Democrat, was started in February, 1874, with W. X. Hensley as editor.

*Polk County.* The first newspaper in this county was the Polk County Times, started at Stromsburg in 1872, edited by W. D. Ferre. The Osceola Record was inaugurated just before the death of the Times in 1872 as the Homesteader. The Herald, founded in December, 1879, by G. R. Nunnally, in 1880 was changed to the Home News, and later consolidated with the Record.

*Red Willow County.* Indianola's first paper was the Courier. McCook's first paper, the Tribune, was started June 8, 1882, by J. P. Isreal, who had sold his interest in the Culbertson Globe to found this paper in the new town.

*Richardson County.* Richardson County presents a list of early papers, illustrative of the early journalism. The Broad Axe was started in Falls City in the fall of 1858, owned by Maj. J. E. Burbank and edited by Sewall Jamieson. Its motto was "Hew to the mark, let the chips fall where they will." "There is a destiny which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we will." It later became the Southern Nebraskan. "The Little Globe, a small journal with great aims," was established in 1873 with a flaming prospectus, of which the following extract will give some idea: "Little, but Oh, Lord! Prospectus of the Globe (the little) a journal of the third class, to be published every Saturday at Falls City, Neb. The Little Globe will be intensely local, and as independent as a hog on ice. We hope to bless this town." This modest announcement was signed "the meekest of men, Ed. W. Howe." This man's name has become a household word through the success he has since accomplished in Atchison, Kan., with his quaint but practical column of humor. The little journal he started, after a relapse, came forth in consolidation with the Nemaha Valley Journal as the Globe-Journal. The Journal had started at Brownville in 1868. The Falls City Press was started on February 1, 1875, and later became the News. The Richardson County Register was established in August, 1881, at Rulo. The Humboldt Sentinel was started on November 2, 1877. The Farmers' Advocate made its bow on July 9, 1881. The People's Paper was

the spasmodic and erratic product of a character known as "Peanut" Wilson and did not remain long in the field. Salem's early paper was the Advertiser.

*Saline County.* The first news journal in this county was the Saline County Post, at Crete, which was started in May, 1871, by Rev. Charles Little, a Congregational minister. It was consolidated in 1876 with the Saline County News, and that paper later became the Saline County Union. The Wilber Record became the Saline County Standard at Crete. In 1879 this paper came into the hands of F. O. Mark and W. G. and E. H. Purcell. The Saline County News had been started in Pleasant Hill, then the county seat of the county. It was removed to Crete after a year of existence. The Crete Sentinel was established in 1875 and the Saline County Democrat in 1876. The first paper attempted in Wilber was called the Opposition, a paper first published at DeWitt, where it continued until 1877. The Wilber Record has been mentioned; and the Free Press came over from DeWitt in 1878, and a Bohemian sheet called the Besada was tried in 1877 for a short time.

*Sarpy County.* The Palladium has already been well discussed as well as the Gazette and Platte Valley Times. The first paper in Papillion was the Sentinel, which started in 1872, and the Papillion Times, established in 1874, was the next.

*Seward County.* The Nebraska Reporter, at Seward, was founded in October, 1871. The Blue Valley Blade was started in 1879 and the Seward Gazette in 1882. At Milford the Seward County Democrat was started in February, 1882.

*Sherman County.* The first paper in this county was the Loup City News, issued on November 3, 1873. Its name was soon changed to the Sherman County Times, under which name it has remained.

*Stanton County.* Lewis Ley started the first paper in this county, the Stanton Bugle, in 1873. An opposition paper called the Stanton County Echo came out a year or so later. The Index followed the Bugle into the field, and also out of it. The Stanton Register was started in 1879.

*Thayer County.* The first member of the Thayer County press was the Hebron Journal, which one citizen said, while designated a "weekly" should be "weakly." He remarked it was a "tri-weekly" that is, "get out one week" and "try to get out the next." This journal was established by E. M. Correll, one of the leading figures of early Nebraska journalism, when the town had only three houses and the county a population of 500. In 1881, the Thayer County Sentinel and the Journal were consolidated. An alliance paper, the People's Advocate, was started on March 18, 1882. At Alexandria the News was started in 1879 by S. E. Babcock, first under the name of the Alexandrian.

*Valley County.* The Valley County Journal was founded in February, 1879, by J. H. Capron, and the Ord Weekly Quiz was founded on April 6, 1882, by Will W. Haskell. These two papers are running in 1920, approximately forty years later. Mr. Capron is a successful abstractor and real estate broker of Ord, and Mr. Haskell retired about two years ago after almost forty years' continuous service with the Quiz.

*Washington County.* The earliest newspapers of this county were established at Cuming City, when, in 1856, the Nebraska Pioneer was started, and in 1858 the Cuming City Star began to twinkle. The early papers in Desoto, among others, numbered the Desoto Pilot, established in 1857 by Isaac Parrish; the Washington County Sun, established in 1858 by P. C. Sullivan; and the Desoto Enquirer, by Z.

Jackson. Blair's early papers were the Pilot, brought from Tekamah by J. T. Lambert in 1874, and the Republican, started by W. H. B. Stout and others in 1870.

Other early papers in Blair were the Blair Register, started in May, 1869, by Hilton & Son, and which L. F. Hilton took charge of in 1871. The Washington County Democrat was started in September, 1881.

*Wayne County.* The Wayne County Review was started May 22, 1875, at La Porte by Huse & Hunter.

*Webster County.* The Webster County Argus was started in August, 1878, by A. J. Kenney. The Red Cloud Chief was established in July, 1873, by C. L. Mather. In its early days the Chief was printed on a Washington hand press, on which the oldest paper in Nebraska, the Brownville Advertiser, was first published in 1856. It is said that the first issue of the Lincoln Daily State Journal was also printed on this same press.

*York County.* The oldest of the newspapers of York is the Republican, which was founded in May, 1872. The Monitor, the Sentinel and the Record were the real early names of the first York papers. The name Republican was adopted by Messrs. Morgan and Ross in April, 1876. The York County Tribune was inaugurated by Frank A. Wellman, in March, 1877. The York County Times was established August 13, 1880.

#### NEWSPAPERS OF NEBRASKA TODAY

A review of the roster of Nebraska newspapers of this period will serve several purposes. It will show those few which have been able to survive a quarter-century and now and then one that has reached the half-century mark. It will serve as a catalogue of those towns large and small throughout the state that have reached a sufficient stage of importance to have a newspaper. A newspaper serves as the voice of the community, and no matter how small the town or how diminutive the "sheet" that issues forth each week from its post-office, its paper stamps the town as a community of individuality, progress, co-operation, optimism and real boosting spirit, or the opposite.

A study of the names of Nebraska newspapers brings out many characteristics of the state. Many of the papers reflect the days when politics had a much sharper partisan tinge than it has had in recent years. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Free-Press, Vindicator, Eagle, Delegate, are titles that suggest the old political rivalry, especially in many towns where one paper still bears the title Republican, and its ancient rival Democrat. The common names of papers expressing the purposes of a newspaper abound, such as Herald, Courier, Chronicle, Reporter, Tribune, Times, Messenger, News, Clarion, Advocate, Press, Journal, Monitor, Argus, Register, Dispatch, Review, Telegraph, Telepost, Post, Graphic, Items, Index, Call, Mirror, Exchange, and Observer; and some of the names denote speed and "Progress," such as Advance, Express, Optimist, Booster, Auxiliary, probably the only paper in the nation of that name, at Fairfield, except the national trade journal, "Publishers Auxiliary"; Locomotive, Spotlight, Beacon, Echo, Standard, Leader, Clipper, Rip-Saw, Enterprise and Banner. Unusual names as Vidette and Visitor appear. Sometimes a town is reflected as Waconion or Wymorean. The nature of the country sometimes is intimated as in Star, Breeze, Wave (though no ocean is near Nebraska), and Sun. The early Indian period

appears reflected in Frontier, Pioneer, Signal, Chief, Chieftain, Picket, Sentinel, Arbor State, Fontanelle; and the cattle days in Rustler, Blade, Maverick, and Stockman. The Faber is a paper that surely should receive pencils from a well known pencil manufacturer; the Loyalist reflects local pride; and Union, national sentiment.

## NEWSPAPERS IN 1920

The present newspapers of Nebraska in 1920, with the year of their establishment, is herewith given. Unless otherwise indicated the paper is a weekly paper. This list is given by towns, and cross-reference from the list of early papers to this list will show those few of the early papers which have survived a quarter-century or longer. Where not otherwise indicated, paper usually carries the name of the town in its title.

- Adams, Gage Co. Globe, 1889.
- Ainsworth, Brown Co. Brown County Democrat, 1906; Star-Journal, 1880.
- Albion, Boone Co. Argus, 1876; News, 1879.
- Alexandria, Thayer Co. Argus, 1894.
- Allen, Dixon Co. News, 1890.
- Alliance, Box Butte Co. Herald, 1895; Times (Tues. and Fri.), 1887.
- Alma, Harlan County Journal, 1897; Record, 1892.
- Alvo, Cass Co. Advance.
- Anselmo, Custer Co. Enterprise, 1906.
- Ansley, Custer Co. Herald, 1891.
- Antioch, Sheridan Co. News, 1913.
- Arapahoe, Furnas Co. Public Mirror, 1882.
- Arcadia, Valley Co. Champion, 1896.
- Arlington, Washington Co. Review-Herald, 1882.
- Arnold, Custer Co. Sentinel, 1911.
- Arthur, Arthur Co. Enterprise, 1911.
- Ashland, Saunders Co. Gazette, 1878.
- Ashton, Sherman Co. Herald, 1915.
- Atkinson, Holt Co. Graphic, 1880.
- Auburn, Nemaha Co. Nemaha County Herald, 1888; Nemaha County Republican, 1879.
- Aurora, Hamilton Co. Hamilton County Register, 1890; the Sun, 1885, and the Republican, 1873.
- Axtell, Kearney Co. Guidax (Golden Ear), Swedish paper, monthly religious journal, 1913; the Times, 1896.
- Bancroft, Cuming Co. Blade, 1889.
- Bartlett, Wheeler Co. Wheeler County Independent, 1891.
- Bartley, Red Willow Co. Inter-Ocean, 1886.
- Bassett, Rock County Leader, 1897.
- Battle Creek, Madison Co. The Enterprise, 1887.
- Bayard, Morrill Co. Transcript, started in 1888 by the Wisner family and run by R. A. Wisner now; Farmers' Exchange, 1917.
- Beatrice, Gage Co. Express, evening, except Sunday, 1884; Sun, morning except Monday, 1902.
- Beaver City, Furnas Co. The Sun, 1918; Times-Tribune, 1873.

- Beemer, Cuming Co. Times, 1886.  
 Belden, Cedar Co. Progress, 1893.  
 Belgrade, Nance Co. Herald, 1900.  
 Bellwood, Butler Co. Gazette, 1886.  
 Benkleman, Dundy Co. News-Chronicle, 1893; Post, 1916.  
 Bennet, Lancaster Co. Sun, 1911.  
 Bennington, Douglas Co. Herald, 1904.  
 Benson, Douglas Times, 1903.  
 Bertrand, Phelps Independent-Herald, 1896.  
 Bethany, Lancaster Co. Cotner Collegian, by students of Cotner University, 1901.  
 Bladen, Webster Co. Enterprise, 1893.  
 Blair, Washington Co. Tribune, 1870; Pilot, 1872; Enterprise, 1896; and Dankersch (Danish), 1892.  
 Bloomfield, Knox Co. Journal, 1913; Monitor, 1890.  
 Bloomington, Franklin County Tribune, 1916; Advocate, 1881.  
 Blue Hill, Webster Leader, 1887.  
 Blue Springs, Gage Co. Sentinel, 1886.  
 Bradshaw, York Co. Monitor, 1896.  
 Brady, Lincoln Co. Vindicator, 1908.  
 Brainard, Butler Co. Clipper, 1897.  
 Brewster, Blaine Co. News, 1883.  
 Bridgeport, Morrill Co. Herald, 1912, conducted by C. D. Capper, a newspaper man of Nebraska for almost half a century who died late in 1920; News-Blade, 1900, when the town started.  
 Bristow, Boyd Co. Enterprise, 1902.  
 Broadwater, Morrill Co. News, 1911.  
 Brock, Nemaha Co. Bulletin, 1895.  
 Broken Bow, Custer Co. Custer County Chief, 1892, with a weekly circulation of approximately 4,000, one of the largest, if not the largest in the state; Custer County Republican, 1882, conducted for many years by Hon. D. M. Amsberry, the present secretary of state.  
 Brownlee, Cherry Co. Booster, 1914.  
 Bruning, Thayer Co. Banner, 1918.  
 Brunswick, Antelope Co. Independent, 1908.  
 Burchard, Pawnee Times, 1899.  
 Burwell, Garfield Co. Tribune, 1888.  
 Bushnell, Kimball Co. Record, 1917.  
 Butte, Boyd Co. Gazette, 1892.  
 Cairo, Hall Co. Record, 1903.  
 Callaway, Custer Co. Loup Valley Queen, 1902.  
 Cambridge, Furnas Co. Clarion, 1885.  
 Campbell, Franklin Co. Citizen, 1900.  
 Carroll, Wayne Co. Index, 1901.  
 Cedar Bluffs, Saunders Co. Standard, 1891.  
 Central City, Merrick Co. Nonpareil, 1882; Republican, 1893.  
 Chadron, Dawes Co. Chronicle, 1909; Journal, 1884.  
 Chambers, Holt Co. Sun, 1879.

- Chappell, Deuel Co. Register, 1887.  
 Chester, Thayer Co. Herald, 1885.  
 Clarks, Merrick Co. Enterprise, 1891.  
 Clarkson. Colfax County Press, 1904; a Bohemian weekly, 1904.  
 Clay Center. Clay County Patriot, 1892; Clay County Sun, 1884.  
 Clearwater, Antelope Co. Record, 1897.  
 Cody, Cherry Co. Cow Boy, 1900.  
 Coleridge, Cedar Co. Blade, 1891.  
 College View. Christian Record, monthly, printed in raised type for the blind; Nebraska Club Bulletin, for Nebraska women's clubs, 1912; the Gazette-Advocate, 1910; Seventh Day Adventist publishing house is located here.  
 Columbus, Platte Co. News, evening, except Sunday; Telegram, Ex-Lieut. Gov. Edgar Howard, editor, 1879.  
 Comstock, Custer Co. News, 1907.  
 Cook, Johnson Co. Courier, 1892.  
 Cortland, Gage Co. News, 1897.  
 Cozad, Dawson Co. Local, 1897.  
 Crab Orchard, Johnson Co. Herald, 1889.  
 Craig, Burt Co. News, 1887.  
 Crawford, Dawes Co. Courier, 1906; Tribune, 1887.  
 Creighton, Knox Co. News, 1890.  
 Creston, Platte Co. Statesman, 1897.  
 Crete, Saline Co. Democrat, 1874; News, 1908; Vidette, 1870; Doane Owl, collegiate, 1878; and Zivot (Life) (Bohemian), 1910.  
 Crofton, Knox Co. Journal, 1906.  
 Crookston, Cherry Co. Herald, 1913.  
 Culbertson, Hitchcock Co. Banner, 1905.  
 Curtis, Frontier Co. Enterprise, 1890.  
 Dakota City. Dakota County Herald, 1891; North Nebraska Eagle, 1876.  
 Dalton, Cheyenne Co. Delegate, 1914.  
 Danbury. Red Willow News, 1898.  
 Dannebrog, Howard Co. News, 1898.  
 Davenport, Thayer Co. People's Journal, 1890.  
 Davey. Lancaster Mirror, by Lincoln publishing house; also one at Ceresco, so published.  
 David City. Butler County Press, 1873; People's Banner, 1890.  
 Dawson, Richardson Co. Reporter, 1913.  
 Decatur, Burt Co. Herald, 1902.  
 Deshler, Thayer Co. Rustler, 1899.  
 DeWitt, Saline Co. Eagle, 1894; Times-News, 1881.  
 Diller, Jefferson Co. Record, 1887.  
 Dix, Kimball Co. Tribune, 1919.  
 Dixon, Dixon Co. Journal, 1908.  
 Dodge, Dodge Co. Criterion, 1888.  
 Doniphan, Hall Co. Enterprise, 1914.  
 Dorchester, Saline Co. Star, 1881.  
 Douglas, Otoe Co. Enterprise, 1889, prints an edition for Burr, Neb., under name of Burr Bulletin.



- Dubois, Pawnee Co. Press, 1905.  
Dunbar, Otoe Co. Review, 1899.  
Dunning. Blaine County Booster, 1909.  
Eagle, Cass Co. Beacon, 1899.  
Eddyville. Enterprise, 1906.  
Edgar. Clay County Post, 1884; Sun, 1899.  
Elgin, Antelope Co. Review, 1897.  
Elkhorn, Douglas Co. Exchange, printed by Gazette, at Wahoo.  
Elmcreek, Buffalo Co. Beacon, 1898.  
Elmwood, Cass Co. Leader-Echo, 1886.  
Elwood, Gosper Co. Bulletin, 1896.  
Emerson, Dixon Co. Enterprise, 1892.  
Ericson, Wheeler Co. Journal, 1912.  
Eustis, Frontier Co. News, 1904.  
Ewing, Holt Co. People's Advocate, 1891.  
Exeter. Fillmore County News, 1891.  
Fairbury, Jefferson Co. Journal, 1892; News and Gazette, 1897.  
Fairfield, Clay Co. Auxiliary, 1911.  
Fairmont. Fillmore Chronicle, 1872.  
Falls City, Richardson Co. Journal, evening except Sunday, 1866; News, morning except Monday, 1874.  
Farnam, Dawson Co. Echo, 1903.  
Fillee, Gage Co. Spotlight, 1915.  
Firth, Lancaster Co. Advocate, 1915.  
Florence, Douglas Co. Fontanelle, 1915.  
Fort Calhoun, Washington Co. Chronicle, 1915.  
Franklin. Franklin County News, 1910; Sentinel, 1890.  
Fremont, Dodge Co. Tribune, evening except Sunday, 1883; Herald, 1871.  
Friend, Saline Co. Sentinel, 1898; Telegraph, 1877.  
Fullerton, Nance Co. News-Journal, 1879; Post, 1888.  
Gandy. Logan County Pioneer, 1886.  
Geneva, Fillmore Co. Nebraska Signal, 1875.  
Genoa, Nance Co. Indian News, monthly, Indian affairs, 1897; Leader, 1879; The Times; 1902.  
Gering, Scotts Bluff Co. Courier, 1887; Midwest, 1915.  
Gibbon, Buffalo Co. Reporter, 1890.  
Gilead, Thayer Co. News, printed by Hebron Register.  
Giltner, Hamilton Co. Gazette, 1901.  
Gordon, Sheridan Co. Journal, 1892.  
Gothenberg, Dawson Co. Independent, 1885; Times, 1908.  
Grand Island, Hall Co. Daily Independent, except Sunday, as a daily in 1883; started as Platte Valley Independent, a weekly, in 1869, at North Platte, and 1870 at Grand Island, semiweekly issued Tuesday and Friday; Herald, weekly (formerly German paper); Volante, by students of Grand Island College.  
Grant, Perkins Co. Tribune-Sentinel, 1897.  
Greeley, Greeley Co. Citizen, 1892; Leader-Independent, 1887.  
Greenwood, Cass Co. Gazette, by Interstate Co., at Lincoln.  
Gresham, York Co. Gazette, 1887.

- Gretna, Sarpy Co. Breeze, 1899.  
 Guide Rock, Webster Co. Signal, 1883.  
 Haigler, Dundy Co. News, 1911.  
 Hardy, Nuckolls Co. Herald, 1880.  
 Harrisburg. Banner County News, 1893.  
 Harrison, Sioux Co. Sun, 1900.  
 Hartington. Cedar County News, 1898; Herald, 1883.  
 Harvard, Clay Co. Courier, 1885.  
 Hastings. Adams County Democrat, 1880; Tribune, evening except Sunday, 1905; Collegian, Hastings College students.  
 Havelock, Lancaster Co. Post, 1913; Times, 1890.  
 Hayes Center, Hayes Co. Times-Republican, 1886.  
 Hay Springs, Sheridan Co. News, 1910.  
 Hebron, Thayer Co. Journal, 1871; Register, 1883, prints editions as Gilead News and Bruning Courier.  
 Hemingford, Box Butte Co. Ledger, 1915.  
 Henry, Scottsbluff Co. Messenger, 1917.  
 Herman, Washington Co. Record, 1908.  
 Hershey, Lincoln Co. Times, 1911.  
 Hickman, Lancaster Co. Enterprise, 1886.  
 Hildreth, Franklin Co. Telescope, 1887.  
 Holbrook, Furnas Co. Observer, 1905.  
 Holdrege, Phelps Co. Citizen, 1884; Progress, 1887.  
 Homer, Dakota Co. Star, 1910.  
 Hooper, Dodge Co. Sentinel, 1885.  
 Hoskins, Wayne Co. Headlight, 1905.  
 Howell, Colfax Co. Journal, 1888.  
 Hubbell, Thayer Co. Standard, 1890.  
 Humboldt, Richardson Co. Leader, 1897; Standard, 1890.  
 Humphrey, Platte Co. Democrat, 1886.  
 Hyannis. Grant County Tribune, 1888.  
 Imperial, Chase Co. Republican, 1899.  
 Indianola, Red Willow Co. Reporter, 1891.  
 Inman, Holt Co. Leader, 1914.  
 Jansen. Jefferson County News, 1915.  
 Johnson. Nemaha County News, 1892.  
 Johnstown, Brown Co. Enterprise, 1908.  
 Kearney, Buffalo Co. Hub, started 1874, daily, evening except Sunday, and Thursday weekly edition; Democrat, 1894; Nebraska State Grange Journal published here.  
 Kenesaw, Adams Co. Progress, 1917.  
 Kennard. Washington County News, 1916.  
 Kilgore. Cherry County Messenger, 1918.  
 Kimball. Western Nebraska Observer, 1885. This paper had as its early editor Charles H. Randall, the only prohibition candidate ever elected to Congress, now a resident of California.  
 Lakeside, Sheridan Co. Sun, 1918.  
 Laurel, Cedar Co. Advocate, 1893.

Lawrence, Nuckolls Co. Locomotive, 1888.  
 Lebanon, Red Willow Co. Advertiser, 1912.  
 Leigh, Colfax Co. World, 1885.  
 Lewellen, Garden Co. Optimist, 1917.  
 Lewiston, Pawnee Co. Post, 1912.  
 Lexington, Dawson County Pioneer, 1873; Clipper-Citizen, 1888.  
 Liberty, Gage Co. Journal, 1882.

Lincoln, Lancaster Co. Nebraska State Journal, every morning, evening edition formerly Evening News, weekly on Wednesday. Daily Star, each evening except Sunday and on Sunday morning. Inter-state Newspaper Company issues Alva Advance, Cereso Courier, Davey Mirror, Denton Record, Garland Herald, Greenwood Gazette, Nebraska State Democrat at Lincoln; Malcolm Messenger; Martel Leader, Raymond Review and Waverly Watchman. Lincoln has numerous papers for trades, societies, including University of Nebraska publications, Daily Nebraskan, Awgan and Cornhusker (annual), German Freie Presse, W. J. Bryan's Commoner, Weekly Herald, Journal of Orthopedic Surgery, Midwest Printer, Motor Highway, Nebraska Farmer, owned by Governor S. R. McKelvie, Nebraska Legal News, Trade Review, and numerous publications by state associations with headquarters here.

Lindsay, Platte Co. Post, 1897.  
 Lisco, Garden Co. Tribune, 1912.  
 Litchfield, Sherman Co. Monitor, 1886.  
 Lodge Pole, Cheyenne Co. Express, 1886.  
 Long Pine, Brown Co. Journal, 1883.  
 Loomis, Phelps Co. Sentinel, 1910.  
 Louisville, Cass Co. Courier, 1890.  
 Loup City, Sherman County Times, 1877; People's Standard, 1919.  
 Lynch, Boyd Co. Herald, 1897.  
 Lyons, Burt Co. Mirror-Sun, 1884.  
 McCook, Red Willow County Gazette, 1911; Republican, 1880; Tribune, 1882.  
 McCool Junction, York Co. Blue Valley Journal, 1897.  
 Madison, Madison Co. Star-Mail, 1893; Chronicle, 1873.  
 Mason City, Custer Co. Transcript, 1909.  
 Maxwell, Lincoln Co. Telepost, 1910.  
 Maywood, Frontier Co. Eagle-Reporter, 1891, prints also the Dickens Enterprise; Moorefield Herald; Wellfleet News.  
 Meadow Grove, Madison Co. News, 1906.  
 Merna, Custer Co. Messenger, formerly the Postal-Card, 1902.  
 Merriman, Cherry Co. Maverick, 1910.  
 Milford, Seward Co. Review, 1910.  
 Millard, Douglas Co. Courier, issued by Waterloo Gazette.  
 Milligan, Fillmore Co. Times, 1901.  
 Minatare, Scottsbluff Co. Free Press, 1908.  
 Minden, Kearney Co. Courier, 1890; News, 1894.  
 Mitchell, Scottsbluff Co. Index, 1901.  
 Monroe, Platte Co. Republican, 1894.  
 Moorefield, Frontier Co. Issued by Maywood Eagle-Reporter.  
 Morrill, Scottsbluff Co. Mail, 1907.

- Mullen. Hooker County Tribune, 1894.
- Nebraska City, Otoe Co. News, evening except Sunday and Thursday, started in 1854, daily in 1874; Nebraska Press, morning except Monday, started in 1858.
- Nehawka, Cass Co. News-Ledger, 1888.
- Neligh, Antelope Co. Leader, 1885; Register, 1903; News, 1915.
- Nelson. Nuckolls County Herald, 1876; Gazette, 1884.
- Newcastle, Dixon Co. Times, 1893.
- Newman Grove, Madison Co. Reporter, 1886.
- Niobrara, Knox Co. Tribune, 1890.
- Norfolk, Madison Co. News, evening except Sunday, 1887; Press, 1902; a German weekly, 1908.
- North Bend, Dodge Co. Eagle, 1890.
- North Loup, Valley Co. Loyalist, 1888.
- North Platte, Lincoln Co. Telegraph, evening except Sunday, since 1908, and Thursday, weekly since 1873; Tribune, Tuesday and Friday, 1885.
- Oak, Nuckolls Co. Leaf, 1914.
- Oakdale, Antelope Co. Sentinel, 1887.
- Oakland, Burt Co. Independent-Republican, 1880.
- Oconto, Custer Co. Oconto Register, 1905.
- Odell, Gage Co. Wave, 1893.
- Ogalalla, Keith County News, 1884.
- Omaha. Bee, World-Herald and Daily News, each issue several editions a day; Bee and World-Herald, morning, noon and evening editions, except only morning on Sunday, and News, mainly noon and evening daily editions and Sunday morning. Weekly papers in Omaha are: Danske Pioneer (Danish), Sophus F. Neble, editor; Examiner, Alf. Sorenson; Excelsior, Clement Chase; Gwiazda Zachodu (Western Star) Polish; Jewish Bulletin; Mid-West Hotel Reporter; Monitor (Negro); Nebraska Democrat, John M. Tanner, editor; Bohemian daily and weekly; Pokrok (Progress); Swedish-Posten; Bohemian, Rozhledy (Review); Italian, Stampa (press) Trade Exhibit; German Tribune, daily and weekly; daily legal paper; Record, N. O. Talbot, editor; True Voice, Catholic; Unionist, Western Laborer; North Omaha Booster. A dozen or more monthlies for various trades, societies or associations grace Omaha's journalistic field. Among these are Creighton Chronicle, collegiate; Crozier, Episcopal; Bohemian Poultry News (Drubeznicke Noviny); Middle West School Review; Motorist; Nebraska Loyalist; Nebraska State Medical; Journal, recently edited by Dr. J. M. Aiken, who died in November, 1920; Nebraska Union Farmer, semimonthly; Sovereign Visitor and Woodmen News, issued by Woodmen of the World, which order has its national headquarters in an eighteen story building it built in Omaha; Tidings, organ of Woodmen Circle; Time-Saver Railway Guide; Tradesman; Ungdom (Danish), semimonthly; Western Medical Review, Dr. A. L. Muirhead, editor; Western Scot, devoted to Scottish interests.
- O'Neill, Holt Co. Frontier, 1880; Holt County Independent, 1891.
- Ong, Clay Co. Sentinel, 1919.
- Orehard, Antelope Co. News, 1902.
- Ord, Valley Co. Journal, 1883; Quiz, 1882.
- Orleans, Harlan Co. Chronicle, 1914.

- Osceola. Polk County Democrat, 1888, edited by former State Printer E. A. Walrath; Record, 1876.
- Oshkosh. Garden County News, 1909.
- Osmond, Pierce Co. Republican, 1891.
- Otoe. Otoe County Times, 1915.
- Overton, Dawson Co. Herald, 1901.
- Oxford, Furnas Co. Standard, 1885.
- Page, Holt Co. Reporter, 1902.
- Palisade, Hitchcock Co. Times, 1909.
- Palmer, Merrick Co. Journal, 1911.
- Palmyra, Otoe Co. Items, 1887.
- Papillion, Sarpy Co. Times, 1874.
- Pawnee City, Pawnee Co. Pawnee Chief, 1900; Pawnee Republican, 1868; Pawnee County Schools, monthly, educational, 1902.
- Pender, Thurston Co. Republic, 1889; Times, 1886.
- Peru, Nemaha Co. Normalite, by Normal students, collegiate; Pointer, 1897.
- Petersburg, Boone Co. Index, 1891.
- Pierce. Pierce County Call, 1877; Pierce County Leader, 1889.
- Pilger, Stanton Co. Herald, 1901.
- Plainview, Pierce Co. News, 1892.
- Platte Center. Platte Signal, 1894.
- Plattsmouth, Cass Co. Journal, evening except Sunday, since 1904, and Monday and Thursday. Started in 1881.
- Plymouth, Jefferson Co. News, 1893.
- Polk, Polk Co. Progress, 1907.
- Ponca. Dixon County Advocate, 1915; Nebraska Journal-Leader, 1871.
- Potter, Cheyenne Co. Review, 1912.
- Primrose, Boone Co. Press, 1911.
- Ragan, Harlan Co. Journal, 1906.
- Ralston, Douglas Co. Industrial, 1914.
- Randolph, Cedar Co. Times-Enterprise, 1888.
- Ravenna. News, 1886. Its editor, C. B. Cass, is one of the veterans of the journalistic fold of Nebraska.
- Raymond, Lancaster Co. Review, by Interstate Co., Lincoln.
- Red Cloud, Webster Co. Chief, started in 1873; Advertiser, weekly 1912, and thrice-a-week as Commercial-Advertiser, Webster County Argus, since 1878.
- Republican City. Harlan County Ranger, 1902.
- Rising City, Butler Co. Independent, 1880.
- Riverton, Franklin Co. Review, 1870.
- Rosalie, Thurston Co. Rip-Saw, 1909.
- Rulo, Richardson Co. Star, 1919.
- Rushville, Sheridan Co. Standard, 1885; Recorder, 1895.
- Ruskin, Nuckolls Co. News, 1912.
- St. Edward. Boone County Advance, 1900.
- St. Paul, Howard Co. Phonograph, edited by former State Printer J. F. Webster, 1871; Republican, 1890.
- Salem, Richardson Co. Standard, 1910.
- Sargent, Custer Co. Leader, 1899.

- Schuyler, Colfax Co. Sun, since 1871; Messenger, 1909.  
Scotia, Greeley Co. Register, 1895.  
Scottsbluff, Scottsbluff Co. Republican, 1900; Star-Herald, 1906.  
Scribner, Dodge Co. Rustler, 1894.  
Seneca, Thomas County Clipper, 1910.  
Seward, Seward Co. Blue Valley Blade, 1877; Seward County Tribune, 1915; Independent-Democrat, 1891; Journal, 1899.  
Shelby, Polk Co. Sun, 1898.  
Shelton, Buffalo Clipper, 1879.  
Shickley, Fillmore Co. Herald, 1886.  
Shubert, Richardson Citizen, 1894.  
Sidney, Cheyenne Co. Telegraph, 1873; Enterprise, 1917.  
Silver Creek, Merrick Co. Sand, 1903.  
Snyder, Dodge Co. Banner, 1906.  
South Sioux City, Dakota Co. Mail, 1919.  
Spalding, Greeley Co. Enterprise, 1901.  
Spencer, Boyd Co. Advocate, 1893.  
Springfield, Sarpy Co. Monitor, 1882.  
Springview, Keya Paha Co. Herald, 1886.  
Stamford, Harlan Co. Star, 1914.  
Stanton, Stanton Co. Picket, 1893; Register, 1877.  
Stapleton, Logan Co. Enterprise, 1912.  
Steele City, Jefferson Co. Press, 1904.  
Steinauer, Pawnee Co. Star, 1892.  
Stella, Richardson Co. Press, 1882.  
Sterling, Johnson Co. Sun, 1886.  
Stockville, Frontier Co. Faber, 1884.  
Stratton, Hitchcock Co. News, 1910.  
Stromsburg, Polk Co. Headlight, 1885.  
Stuart, Holt Co. Advocate, 1906.  
Sumner, Dawson Co. News, 1907.  
Superior, Nuckolls Co. Express, 1900; Journal, 1882; Philatelic West and Collector's Monthly, 1895.  
Surprise, Butler Co. Enterprise, 1914.  
Sutherland, Lincoln Co. Courier, 1897.  
Sutton, Clay, Co. Register, 1880; News, 1887.  
Syracuse, Otoe Co. Journal-Democrat, 1878.  
Table Rock, Pawnee Co. Argus, 1882.  
Talmage, Otoe Co. Tribune, 1882.  
Tamura, Seward Co. Shields Tamora Lyre, 1916.  
Taylor, Loup Co. Clarion, 1883.  
Tecumseh, Johnson Co. Chieftain, since 1865; Johnson County Journal, 1878.  
Tekamah, Burt County Herald, 1884; Journal, 1873.  
Thedford, Thomas County Herald, 1898.  
Tilden, Madison Co. Citizen, 1890.  
Tobias, Saline Co. Express, 1884.  
Trenton, Hitchcock Co. Register, 1884; Republican Valley Leader, 1894.  
Tryon, McPherson Co. Graphic, 1889.

- Uehling, Dodge Co. Post, 1919.  
Ulysses, Butler Co. Dispatch, 1880.  
Unadilla, Otoe Co. Union, 1896.  
University Place, Lancaster Co. News, 1905; Wesleyan, collegiate, 1890.  
Upland, Frankling Co. Eagle, 1898.  
Utica, Seward Co. Sun, 1887.  
Valentine, Cherry Co. Democrat, 1885; Republican, 1887.  
Valley, Douglas Co. Enterprise, 1887; West End Advocate, 1915.  
Valparaiso, Saunders Co. Visitor, 1891.  
Verdel, Knox Co. Outlook, 1902.  
Verdigre, Knox Co. Citizen, 1899.  
Verdon, Richardson Co. Vedette, 1883.  
Waco, York Co. Waconian, 1919.  
Wahoo, Saunders Co. Democrat, 1884, edited by former state printer, N. J. Ludi; Wasp, 1875.  
Wakefield, Dixon Co. Republican, 1882.  
Wallace, Lincoln Co. Winner, 1908.  
Walthill, Thurston Co. Citizen, 1915; Times, 1906.  
Waterloo, Douglas Co. Independent, 1895, prints and issues Elkhorn Exchange and Millard Courier.  
Wauneta, Chase Co. Breeze, 1887.  
Wausa, Knox Co. Gazette, 1898.  
Waverly. Lancaster Watchman, by Interstate Publishing Company of Lincoln.  
Wayne, Wayne Co. Herald, 1874; Nebraska Democrat, 1884.  
Weeping Water, Cass Co. Republican, 1882.  
Wellfleet. News, by Maywood Eagle-Reporter.  
Western, Saline Co. Wave, 1882.  
West Point, Cuming Co. Democrat, 1875; Republican, 1870.  
Wilber. Saline County Democrat, 1888; Republican, 1887.  
Wilcox, Kearney Co. Herald, 1884.  
Wilsonville, Furnas Co. Review, 1885.  
Winnebago, Thurston Co. Chieftain, 1907.  
Winnetoon, Knox Co. Pioneer, 1910.  
Winside, Wayne Co. Tribune, 1889.  
Wisner, Cuming Co. Chronicle, 1886.  
Wolbach, Greeley Co. Messenger, 1906.  
Wood Lake, Cherry Co. Stockman, 1911.  
Wymore, Gage Co. Arbor State, evening except Sunday and Friday, weekly since 1874, and daily since 1916; Wymorean, 1882.  
Wynot, Cedar Co. Tribune, 1907.  
York, York Co. Republican, 1876; Democrat, 1881; News-Times, daily, evening except Sunday, 1909; New-Teller, 1897.  
Yutan, Saunders Co. News-Advocate, 1915.  
Among new newspapers started in 1920 are: Curtis Courier; Madrid (Perkins Co.) Herald; Maskell (Dixon Co.) Herald; Melbeta (Scottsbluff Co.) Times; Newport (Rock Co.) News; Verdon (Richardson Co.) Delphic, and Virginia (Gage Co.) Virginian.

## CHAPTER XI

### BANKING IN NEBRASKA

TERRITORIAL WILD CAT BANKING—EARLY BANKS AT: NEBRASKA CITY—OMAHA—LINCOLN — BEATRICE — BLAIR—BROWNVILLE—COLUMBUS—CRETE—FAIRBURY—FREMONT—GRAND ISLAND—KEARNEY—MADISON—NORFOLK—PAWNEE CITY—PLATTSMOUTH—SCHUYLER—TECUMSEH—WEST POINT—YORK—BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

#### TERRITORIAL WILD-CAT BANKING

The early banking history of Nebraska during territorial days is badly marred with considerable "wild-cat" records. Some brief conception of the operations of these wild-cat banks may possibly be gained by a brief examination, and a few excerpts from a paper prepared by A. G. Warner for the Nebraska State Historical Society, and published in Vol. II (1887) of its Proceedings and Compilations. Mr. Warner defined the operation of wild-cat banking something like this:

"Just at the beginning of the present century, in the Empire state, that congenial home of all forms of political rascality, Aaron Burr had tried his prentice hand at stealing a bank charter through the New York legislature under the guise of a bill to incorporate 'A company to supply the city of New York with water.' Following the lead of Massachusetts and New York, various states tried first special and then general acts of incorporation for banks having a right to issue currency, but like the traveler choosing between two roads in an Illinois swamp, whichever way they went they were sure to wish they had gone the other."

The experience of older states in creating banks brought about by illicit lobbying, meeting the examiner's visit with specially borrowed specie, with many times the amount of worthless notes in the hands of a gullible public as it began to have assets, and even at times the "busting" of a bank named for some place that never existed in the state seemed never to teach the new ones anything. It was only another form of the spirit that in recent years has permitted such unbridled traffic in oil stocks, worthless securities and stocks of "well watered" promoting schemes, despite securities and blue-sky laws as well devised as legal minds have been able to figure them out. Even Nebraska was no exception. Its first company to be incorporated was the "Western Fire and Marine Insurance and Exchange Company," on March 16, 1855, with powers to issue currency, and do various financial business that the modern banking laws would hardly permit to the best regulated bank, and so much so, that it surreptitiously got itself into existence as the "Western Exchange Bank of Omaha." Its cashier was Levy R. Tuttle, who afterwards, under Lincoln, was treasurer of the United States and the paying teller was A. M. Wyman, who at a subsequent period held the same high honor.



A. D. Jones, a representative from Douglas County, claimed in his day to have consistently voted against the flock of banking bills in the first Legislature.

This fight came up in the second Legislature, and J. Sterling Morton fought against the chartering of banks on any system except that of surplus capital. Five banks were chartered in this session: The Platte Valley Bank (at Nebraska City), the first bank established there; Stephen F. Nuckolls was president and Joshua Garside, cashier. It was one of the six territorial banks that survived the panic of 1857 and one of the few that was really owned locally. The Fontanelle Bank at Florence, its owners being Greene, Weare & Benton. It went under in the panic of 1857. The Bank of Florence, which also went under at that time. The Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha, Samuel Moffatt, cashier, the second of the three Douglas County banks to go under in the panic of 1857. The Nemaha Valley Bank at Brownville. The charters had all been drawn in similar form, were "lobbied through" in similar manner, and each company was made up of a few persons. The stock was either \$50,000 or \$100,000, to be increased at will to \$500,000 and divided in shares of \$100 each. When \$25,000 of this stock had been *subscribed* the company could go to work.

Mr. Warner summarizes this stock as being "assignable and transferable according to such regulations as the directors might think proper. The bank had the power to issue notes, bills, and other certificates of indebtedness, to deal in exchange and do a general banking business. The stockholders were individually liable for the redemption of the currency issued, but there was no provision for a fixed specie reserve, nor other guard against individual rascality or incompetency."

Anyone desiring to examine the text of these charters may find them in Acts of Second Legislative Session, pp. 224, 230, 177, 202 and 208. No annual report was ever made in accordance with such provision as there was for that safeguard.

After the ruin of 1857 struck Nebraska, a correspondent of the St. Louis Republican thus placed the ownership of the new Territory's first six banks, and two of their predecessors:

- Nemaha Valley Bank, Galesburg, Ill.
- Platte Valley Bank, Nebraska City, Neb.
- Fontanelle Bank of Florence, Elgin, Ill.
- Western Fire & Marine Ins. Bank, Galva, Ill.
- Bank of Nebraska, at Omaha and Council Bluffs, Ia.
- Bank of Florence, Davenport, Ia.
- Bank of Desoto, Wisconsin.
- Bank of Tekamah, Bloomington and Gossport, Ind.

This list was reprinted in the Brownville Advertiser of July 8, 1858.

The third session was swamped with such bills, but only two banks reached the final goal of incorporation, the bank of Desoto and Bank of Tekamah, mentioned above.

The panic of 1857 practically ended the passage of special acts of incorporation for banks, except there was an attempt to "wire" through the 1858 session a measure to establish a "State Bank of Nebraska" to do business with the state and have branches in other parts of the commonwealth. Even though the measure passed the council, Dr. G. L. Miller stemmed the tide by exposing an attempt to bribe him, by leaving a note on his desk that if he would support the measure he would receive

\$250 in cash and the privilege of making a loan of \$5,000 without interest when the institution should be started.

A great many of the earlier more substantial banks which started as the communities began to build up were private institutions and later became state and national banks. We will only endeavor in the following brief review to list some of the earlier towns and mention the first banks that started in those towns, to give an idea of the evolution of the present Nebraska banking system.

*Nebraska City.* James Sweet National Bank, established September 19, 1859, as a private bank, by Cheever, Sweet & Co., and assumed the title first given on June 30, 1881, after four or five changes in the membership of the firm. James Sweet was president and head of it.

Otoe County National Bank, chartered May, 1865, Talbot Ashton, president, J. Metcalf, cashier.

Nebraska City National Bank, 1871, O. J. McCann, president, John W. Steinhart, acting cashier.

*Omaha.* A cursory examination of the banks that came and went during a quarter century, after the panic of 1857, in Omaha, will serve as a good barometer of the progress of the banking business in Nebraska.

Private banks were started during the period from 1857 to 1860 by Samuel E. Rogers, Smith & Parmelee, and Gridley & Co. None of these were long-lived, however.

In 1858 William Young Brown started a bank of issue on the corner of Farnam and Eleventh streets, of which J. D. Briggs was cashier. This bank went into liquidation after a year or so, leaving its paper afloat.

J. A. Ware & Co. started a bank at the corner of Thirteenth and Farnam streets in 1865 and continued in business for five or six years. The firm was composed of J. A. Ware, Nebraska City; J. W. Angus, Omaha; and P. S. Wilson, Cheyenne.

In April, 1868, the "Central National Bank" was organized with John McCormick, president; J. E. Boyd, vice president; and J. M. Watson, cashier. It was located on the south side of Farnam Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets. In January, 1871, this bank wound up its affairs and closed its doors.

These institutions have been dealt with a little out of chronological order for the reason that they were short-lived. To revert back to early days, the first banking house established in Omaha (and the oldest with one exception in the Territory) was that of Barrows, Millard & Co., which started early in 1856. The house was composed of Willard Barrows, J. H. Millard, Ezra Millard and S. S. Caldwell. Business prospered with the firm.

In 1864 the title became Millard, Caldwell & Co., and May 1, 1868, the firm name became Caldwell, Hamilton & Co., C. W. Hamilton at this time purchasing the entire interest of Mr. Millard. In October, 1883, this firm's bank opened up as the United States National Bank.

The house of Kountze Bros. was established in 1857 by Augustus, L. W. and Herman Kountze. A large business was done by this firm down to the year 1865 when it merged into the First National Bank.

The First National Bank was organized August 26, 1863; commenced business April 1, 1864, and was consolidated with the preceding firm July 1, 1865. The first officers were Edward Creighton, president, and Herman Kountze, cashier. The first board of directors were Augustus Kountze, Herman Kountze, Edward

Creighton, W. H. S. Hughes and Louis J. Ruth. The capital stock at the organization of the bank was \$50,000. This amount has been increased from time to time, as follows: January 19, 1865, to \$65,000; October 13, 1865, to \$100,000; June 19, 1869, to \$200,000. May 6, 1864, Augustus Kountze was elected as vice president of the bank, there having been no such officer elected prior to that time. He remained in this position until February 14, 1865, when Alvin Saunders was elected vice president and Kountze became cashier. January 12, 1869, Herman Kountze was elected vice president, and H. W. Yates, assistant cashier. July 8, 1874, Mr. Yates was elected cashier, and Augustus Kountze, second vice president. Herman Kountze was elected president, January 12, 1875, and Augustus Kountze, vice president, at the same time. F. H. Davis became assistant cashier, January 9, 1877. The present board of directors are Herman Kountze, Augustus Kountze, John A. Creighton, A. J. Poppleton and F. H. Davis. On March 1, 1882, Mr. Yates retired from the bank and F. H. Davis succeeded him as cashier.

For the first twenty days in October, 1866, the average business transactions per day amounted to \$14,432.18, including the cash on hand. The average daily transactions for a corresponding period in October, 1881, were \$811,108.11, including also the cash on hand. Exclusive of cash on hand, in October, 1866, the average daily transactions were \$5,905.76, and in October, 1881, \$529,569.20. The first board of directors were Ezra Millard, S. S. Caldwell, Joseph N. Field, J. D. Brown, R. A. Brown, Thomas Martin and A. J. Simpson. The present board of directors are Ezra Millard, J. H. Millard, J. J. Brown, A. J. Simpson and William Wallace. The bank has at present a surplus capital of \$100,000. In 1877 the bank retired one-half of its \$180,000 circulation, leaving \$90,000 outstanding.

The State Bank of Nebraska was organized and commenced business June 1, 1870. The board of directors were Alvin Saunders, Enos Lowe, Samuel E. Rogers, A. D. Jones, Jonas Gise, John R. Porter, J. Weightman, C. H. Downs and J. A. Horbach. The capital stock is \$100,000, one-half of which was paid in and the remainder paid from the profits. This was the first state bank organized in Nebraska, as well as the first instituted under the amended banking law of the state, which permitted them to receive deposits in excess of two-thirds of the capital stock. Alvin Saunders was its first president, J. R. Porter, vice president, and B. B. Wood, cashier. June 5, 1876, Mr. Saunders retired from the presidency of the bank, and Frank Murphy was elected to succeed him. In 1874, Enos Lowe was elected vice president of the bank; he was succeeded by Samuel E. Rogers, June 5, 1876. July 15, 1874, Luther Drake became assistant cashier.

The Nebraska National Bank was opened in April, 1882, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000, and the following directors: S. R. Johnson, A. E. Touzalin, W. V. Morse, John S. Collins, James M. Woolworth, Lewis S. Reed and Henry W. Yates.

The United States National Bank, through succession to Barrows, Millard & Co., and Millard, Caldwell & Co., the oldest bank in the State of Nebraska, after almost forty years as a national bank has become one of the two largest Omaha banks. Charles W. Hamilton, S. S. Caldwell, Milton T. Barlow and V. B. Caldwell have been the men to whom the credit for the success of this institution mainly reflects. The record of Ex-Senator Joseph H. Millard of over half a century service with the Omaha National Bank has been one of the landmarks of American

banking. The First National Bank has continued to be one of the larger institutions of Omaha, with F. H. Davis in more recent years serving as president.

In 1882 the old firm of J. A. Ware & Company was reorganized and came out as the Merchants National. The service of H. W. Yates as cashier and president of the Nebraska National Bank is another landmark record in Nebraska banking annals. Newer banks in Omaha, were the City National, which operated for a decade or more prior to its purchase by the younger State Bank of Omaha, organized in 1912; the Corn Exchange National Bank, 1909, and the Central State, and Commercial State, organized in 1916. South Omaha has the very strong South Omaha Savings Bank, 1888; Packers National Bank, 1890; Live Stock National Bank, 1907; Stock Yards National Bank, organized under its present name in 1911 and succeeding to the old Union Stock Yards National. The service of H. C. Bostwick, as president of this bank is another of the credit marks of the Nebraska banking profession. The Security State in 1914 is the junior bank down there. Omaha has had a long list of defunct banks, in between the two extremes pictured in this review, of the struggling pioneer banks and the solidly established financial bulwarks of today.

*Lincoln.* The pioneer establishment was that of James Sweet & Brock, dating from 1868. It was built in the southwest corner of the Sweet block, the first block built on the plat of Lincoln. In 1871 it was reorganized into the State Bank of Nebraska. Nelson C. Brock, of this firm, died in Lincoln in March, 1921.

The First National Bank of Lincoln received its charter to do business on February 24, 1871. It was the successor of a private bank founded by Judge Amasa Cobb and J. F. Sudduth, president and cashier. In 1874, John Fitzgerald became president and John R. Clark, cashier. In 1889 a consolidation was effected with the American Exchange National Bank, when S. H. Burnham became president. It later took in the Columbia National. Now with the First Savings Bank and First Trust Company, this concern is one of the strongest of Nebraska. Lincoln has had many banks come and go since the old First National started in. Banks which are no longer on the active list are: State National, 1872; Lincoln National, 1882, consolidated in 1892 into First National; Marsh Brothers & Mosher banking house was a leading factor in the defalcation of Joseph Bartley, state-treasurer, and the president of this institution landed in the Federal Penitentiary as a cure for his style of banking; Lancaster County Bank, 1877; Union Savings Bank, 1886; Nebraska Savings, 1886; German National, 1886; Industrial Savings, 1891. On the other hand, another group of banks have started in Lincoln that are splendid institutions. The City National began in 1899; National Bank of Commerce, in 1902; Central National in 1907; Nebraska State Bank, 1911; Continental State, formerly German-American, 1909; Lincoln State, 1913, and American State, 1917.

*Beatrice.* Smith Brothers Bank commenced business in September, 1872, in a small way. Their successor, the First National Bank, was chartered and commenced business in April, 1877. Hon. A. S. Paddock was director in this bank. The Gage County Bank, organized in 1881, was an outgrowth of the private banking business of William Lamb, opened August 1, 1879.

*Blair.* The private banking business of A. Castetter was opened in 1869. Francis M. Castetter, a son, was manager after 1890, and after his father's death, also president. F. H. Claridge has been president of this bank in recent years, and

continued in charge until the sensational failure of this institution in February, 1921, in probably the most stupendous bank failure in many years of Nebraska banking history.

*Brownville.* The first bank at Brownville has already been spoken of. S. H. Riddle was president and Alexander Hallam cashier. This bank, connected with the Nemaha Valley issue, went down in the storm of 1857. B. F. Lushbaugh and John L. Carson established a private banking house, as Lushbaugh & Carson, January 14, 1857, and this withstood the storms of territorial finance until August 28, 1871, it was succeeded by the newly organized First National Bank of Brownville, of which John L. Carson was the first president. The State Bank of Brownville was organized under state law, October 1, 1870.

*Columbus.* In July, 1871, Leander Gerrard and Julius A. Reed opened a bank on the north side of town. In May, 1874, Abner Turner and Geo. W. Hulst opened another on the south side. The two banks organized under the name of Columbus State Bank July 28, 1875. The next bank in Columbus was a private bank of Anderson & Reen in 1880.

*Crete.* The State Bank of Nebraska was organized in Crete in 1872, with Colonel Doane, John Fitzgerald and John R. Clark as incorporators. This was the first bank organized in Saline County, and its first competitor in Crete was in 1879, when the banking company composed of John L. Tidball and Walter Scott started in, and this institution became the Citizens Bank in 1881. The Saline County Bank was organized at Wilber in March, 1878; the Blue Valley Bank there in 1881.

*Fairbury.* Thomas Harbine's Bank started in 1874 and was the first and in fact the only bank in Jefferson County for some time.

*Fremont.* E. H. Rogers & Co. established a private bank in July, 1867. In April, 1872, the First National Bank was formed with Theron Nye as president, and E. H. Rogers as cashier. Hopkins & Millard's bank, originally Wilson & Hopkins, starting in 1871, eventually became the Fremont National. George W. E. Dorsey's bank began in December, 1879, and Richard & Keene's private bank (L. D. Richards and L. M. Keene) opened in 1882.

*Grand Island.* The pioneer financial institution of Hall County was the old State Central Bank organized in 1871 by Henry A. Koenig, later state treasurer. The Citizens National started in 1887 and the Security National in 1889. These three banks all went under during the trying times of the '90s. But the Grand Island National, an outgrowth of the Grand Island Banking Company, organized in 1879, and the First National, organized as such in 1882, from the private bank of C. F. Bentley, started in 1880, have remained and grown during the forty years elapsing.

*Kearney.* The oldest bank in Kearney was that of L. R. More, established in 1873. The Buffalo County Bank was organized in 1879 to take the place of its predecessor, the Kearney Bank, which failed that year.

*Madison.* Barnes-Tyrrell, bankers, opened in 1871. F. W. Barnes of this firm was a pioneer of Madison, as he laid out the town in 1870.

*Norfolk.* J. and C. P. Mathewson opened a bank in 1872 in a small frame building. In 1878 C. P. Mathewson became sole proprietor of that business, and this institution later became the Norfolk National Bank. The next banks to start

were the Norfolk Bank, opened by Burrows & Egbert, January 18, 1882, and the Norfolk City Bank, opened February 15, 1882, by I. P. Donaldson & Co.

*Pawnee City.* The State Bank of Nebraska was established July 26, 1872. It was reorganized later as the Farmers State Bank, and still later as the First National Bank. But as the immediate successor of the Farmers State Bank in 1881, the private banking house of Joy, Eckman & David came in.

*Plattsmouth.* The first bank in Plattsmouth was that of Tootle & Hanna, opened in 1859; John R. Clark became a partner in 1866, and the firm remained Tootle, Hanna & Clark until 1872, when the First National Bank was organized, with John R. Fitzgerald as president, C. H. Parmelee vice president, John R. Clark cashier, E. G. Dovey and R. G. Cushing and others as directors. This list presents names very prominent in banking and commercial circles in Nebraska.

*Schuyler.* F. E. Frye & Co., the first bankers here, could not survive the storm of 1873. In March, 1874, Sumner, Smith & Co. established a bank. In 1881 it became the Farmers Bank.

*Tecumseh.* The first banks in Tecumseh were the private house of Russell, Holmes & Co. (W. H. Russell and C. A. Holmes), established in 1871 and about twenty years later becoming the Tecumseh National Bank, and the Farmers Bank, started in 1880.

*West Point.* Bruner's Bank was organized in 1871, by Bruner, Neligh & Kipp. In 1872 it became Bruner & Kipp, and in 1874 became Uriah Bruner's Bank. The next bank was the Elkhorn Valley Bank established in 1875.

*York.* William McWhister founded a bank in 1875 which became the Commercial State Bank after Sayre & Atkins had operated it a short time. The First National of York was incorporated July 1, 1882.

#### BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

One of the peculiarly characteristic achievements of Nebraska's financial history is the part played in her upbuilding by the many building and loan associations organized in the state under the peculiarly encouraging and favorable laws adopted for the purpose of aiding in home building. Hon. Charles F. Bentley of Grand Island, Neb., served in 1907 as president of the National Association of Building and Loan Companies, and with other Nebraska financiers early saw the need of protecting the small borrower and investor from the greed and unsafe methods of many so-called national concerns that had sprung up around the country.

Secretary Hart of the state department of trade and commerce is distributing the annual report of the building and loan associations of the state. The pamphlet contains a statement of the condition of each of the seventy-four associations in the state, together with a summary of the combined report. Mr. Hart speaks in high terms of their management.

The first building and loan associations in the state were fostered under a law passed in the early history of the state, and for the last twenty-eight years they have remained rather constant in number. There are now seventy-four, whereas in 1892 there were seventy-one. The largest number was eighty-six, in 1894, and the lowest was in 1902, when it was forty-eight.

The growth in total assets, however, has been tremendous, nearly twenty-six times as much as in 1892, when they were three millions. During the last year the increase

was twelve millions. Two were granted certificates during the year, the Home at Fairbury and the Globe at Columbus. The number of shares has risen from 45,000 in 1892 to 1,917,000 at the present time.

Associations are now located in the following towns and cities: Albion, Alliance, Auburn, Aurora, Beatrice (3), Blair, Bloomfield, Cambridge, Central City, Clay Center, Columbus (3), Crete, David City, Fairbury (2), Falls City, Fremont (2), Grand Island, Hartington, Hastings, Havelock, Holdrege, Hooper, Humboldt, Kearney, Laurel, Lincoln (9), Madison, McCook, Nebraska City, Nelson, Newman Grove (2), Norfolk (2), North Loup, North Platte, Omaha (9), Ord, Plattsmouth (2), Seward, Sidney, Superior, Tecumseh, Trenton, University Place, Valentine, Wahoo, Wilber, Wood River, Wymore, York.

The nine Lincoln associations have assets totaling around twelve million dollars, while the nine in Omaha have assets of about fifty millions. Those with more than a million assets in the state are the State of Beatrice, with \$3,023,000; the Nebraska State of Fremont, with nearly three millions; the Equitable of Grand Island, with \$1,230,000; the Nebraska Central of Lincoln, with \$5,512,000; the Union of Lincoln, with \$1,422,000; the Norfolk, with \$1,239,000; the Mutual of North Platte, with \$1,329,000; the Bankers of Omaha, with \$1,032,000; the Commercial of Omaha, \$1,302,000; the Conservative of Omaha, with \$17,259,000; the Nebraska of Omaha, with \$1,749,000; the Occidental of Omaha, with \$9,013,000; the Omaha, with \$16,943,000. Outside of Lincoln and Omaha the total assets are fifteen millions.

Secretary Hart says: "This report shows that practically the same prosperity shown in the 1919 report has continued throughout the year just closed and the increases in receipts and expenditures have again shown a 25 per cent gain and the total assets and liabilities have increased 18 per cent or \$12,171,277.84.

"Loans are negotiated only on real estate security or assignment of installment certificates of stock and then only for a conservative margin of the appraised value. This report shows that the loans on real estate averages 48 per cent of the appraised value of the security compared with 53 per cent in 1919. With the return of normal building conditions and the urgent housing conditions now existing, the future activities of these associations will no doubt show greater activity than heretofore. Nebraska is justified in her feeling of pride in being the home of some of the largest and most efficiently managed associations in existence anywhere."

Receipts for the year included twenty-five millions of dues paid; ten millions of stock paid up; mortgage payments of sixteen millions; a million and a half of stock loan payments and over four millions interest payments. The total receipts were \$74,741,388.36. Over thirty-one million was invested in mortgage loans; withdrawals totaled twenty-five millions; salaries and commissions, \$645,000; Liberty Bonds, \$911,000.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE BENCH AND BAR OF NEBRASKA

THE STATE SUPREME COURT—THE DISTRICT BENCH OF NEBRASKA—LEADERS OF THE BAR OF NEBRASKA—THE EARLY BAR OF THE STATE (TAKEN BY ALL LARGER COUNTY SEATS, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)—OMAHA—LINCOLN—OTHER TOWNS—MORRILL COUNTY BAR IN THE WORLD WAR.

This chapter can very appropriately be opened with a historical survey of the State Supreme Court, the highest unit in the state's judicial and legal system. Then a review of the district bench and finally a brief review of the character and make-up of the practicing bar of the state.

#### THE STATE SUPREME COURT

When the state was first formed, its Supreme Court consisted of three judges, who also performed the functions of district judges until 1875. In doing this they traveled thousands of miles annually in the days when railroad trains were few and horseback or buckboard were the means of conveyance to most of the county seats. In fifty-three years of its existence, the Nebraska State Supreme Court has had but twenty-six members. Seven of these are serving at the present time. But three of the nineteen ex-judges are living at this time, all in Nebraska: Fawcett is practicing in Lincoln; Sullivan at Omaha and Norval at Seward.

Of the sixteen deceased ex-justices all were residents of Nebraska at the time of their death, Holcomb being the only one who ever left the state even for a time to live, and he was in Washington State at his daughter's. Although no native son, until the latest member, Judge L. A. Flansburg, was ever elevated to her high bench, six or seven of her judges were first admitted to practice in the court of Nebraska, several others practiced less than one year in some other state before locating in Nebraska, and only three or four of the twenty-six judges were past thirty years of age when they came to Nebraska. Not only have her jurists been essentially Nebraskan in their legal careers, but every member except one was born in the United States and he came to Nebraska in boyhood. New York was the native state of Nebraska's first three judges, George B. Lake, Oliver P. Mason and Lorenzo Crouse; her justice of longest service, Samuel Maxwell, and her present chief justice, Andrew M. Morrissey. Illinois was the birthplace of six justices: T. L. Norval (1890-1902), Manoah B. Reese (served 1884-1890 and 1908-1915), Samuel H. Sedgwick (1903-1909 and 1911-1920), John J. Sullivan (1898-1901, and 1908 for one day when he resigned), Jesse L. Root (1908-1912), and Chester H. Aldrich (present member since 1918). From Pennsylvania hailed Judges Daniel Gantt (1873-1878, died in office), A. M. Post (1892-1898), W. B.



Rose (member since 1908), and Conrad Hollenbeck (1915). From Ohio came Judges T. O. C. Harrison (1894-1900), John B. Barnes (1904-1917), and Francis G. Hamer (1912-1918). Indiana furnished Justices Amasa Cobb (1878-1892) and Silas A. Holcomb (1900-1906); Wisconsin, Justice Jacob Fawcett, (1908-1917); Iowa, Judges A. J. Cornish (1917-1920) and George A. Day (member in 1920), and Missouri, Judge Dean (1908-1910 and 1917 to date) and Judge Flansburg, member in 1920 born at Alma, Nebraska, while Judge Letton (1903 to date) first saw the light in the heathered hills of Scotland.

Judge Wm. A. Little was elected in 1866 but died before he qualified. Of Nebraska's first five judges, Lake, Crounse, Mason, Gantt and Maxwell, all had served as members of territorial legislatures, and all except Gantt in from one to three constitutional conventions, so it may truly be said of those founders of this court that they not only founded Nebraska's jurisprudence, but also assisted in laying the foundation of the state, in both enacting and administering her laws. Judge Crounse was only thirty-two years of age when placed on this bench, and later he served as assistant secretary of the treasury under President Harrison, and as governor of the state in 1892-1893. Two other judges have served as governor of the state, Silas A. Holcomb, who also served in his declining years as member of the State Board of Control until his death, and Chester H. Aldrich, a present member of the court. Judge Lake served sixteen years on the court; Cobb, fourteen and Maxwell, the longest term of twenty-two years. He also served in Congress later, and was the author of several works on practice, still standard with the Nebraska Bar. Judge Reese was the first chief justice after the rotation, every two years changing, was abolished, and Judge Hollenbeck the first member elected on the nonpartisan ticket. Those judges who died while in office as members of the court have been, Gantt, Hollenbeck, Hamer, Sedgwick and Cornish. The present members are Andrew M. Morrissey (formerly of Valentine), chief justice, who was re-elected in 1920 to serve until 1927; Charles B. Letton, formerly of Fairbury, term expires 1925; William B. Rose, Lincoln, 1925; James R. Dean, Broken Bow, 1923; Chester H. Aldrich, formerly of David City, 1925; George A. Day, Omaha, 1923, and Leonard A. Flansburg, Lincoln, 1923.

At three periods in its history the Supreme Court has had a Supreme Court commission, and many of these commissioners have, since their service to this court, attained notable records in other fields. The first commission, which served from 1893 to 1899, were Robert Ryan, John M. Ragan and Frank Irvine, who later became a member of the New York Public Utilities Commission; on the second commission, from 1901 to 1902, George A. Day, for seventeen years district judge in Douglas County and now a member of the Supreme Court; Samuel H. Sedgwick, for fifteen years a member of this court, and Roscoe Pound, dean of Harvard Law School; from 1902 to 1903, Charles S. Lohingier, now of the U. S. Court of China, and John B. Barnes, who went onto the court in 1904, and Charles B. Letton, 1902 to 1906, who also went onto the court; 1901 to 1904, William G. Hastings, for past ten years dean of the University of Nebraska Law School, John S. Kirkpatrick, now of Kansas City, Mo., and I. L. Albert of Columbus; 1901 to 1906, Willis D. Oldham, of Kearney; 1901 to 1907, John H. Ames; 1901 to 1909, Edward Duffie; 1904 to 1906, Jacob Fawcett, later on the court; 1905 to 1909, N. D. Jackson; 1906 to 1909, Ambrose C. Epperson of Clay Center; 1907 to 1909, Edward E. Good and Elisha C. Calkins; and 1908 to 1909, Jesse L.

Root; and on the third commission, from 1915 to 1919, William C. Parriott of Auburn, lately of War Department Court in Washington, D. C., Fred O. McGirr, of Beatrice, and ex-Atty.-Gen. Grant G. Martin; and from 1919 to date, Leonard A. Flansburg, who succeeded Judge Cornish on the court, George W. Tibbetts of Hastings, and Judge W. C. Dorsey of Bloomington, and succeeding Judge Flansburg in 1920, W. M. Cain of Fremont.

#### THE BAR OF NEBRASKA

The Bar of Nebraska presents so many worthy names that to compile a history of the achievements of the lawyers of this state the compiler would really need a volume, instead of the short space of a chapter.

The roster of United States senators, congressmen and state officials already given in this work presents the names of many great lawyers of Nebraska, who after they had struggled years to build up a practice that would yield a competence and educate their growing families, or care for loved ones, if they had never married, were willing to undertake public service at the low rates of compensation which this state could afford through the pioneering days and the hard times of the nineties. It is only with the new constitution of 1920 that Nebraska has reached the point where she felt equal to paying public salaries in keeping with the public service she has received in the past and will continue to receive in the future from the class of citizens her electorate can choose its officers from.

#### THE DISTRICT BENCH OF NEBRASKA

While there is great honor to the exalted task of judge of the Supreme Court, it must be remembered it is no small undertaking to call upon any man to sit in judgment upon his neighbors, fellow citizens of communities where he has been acquainted for many years, to listen to the pleas of lawyers with whom he has practiced, in many instances, since his advent at the bar with his treasured sheepskin, and pass upon the rights of former clients or business associates. The review of the Supreme Court shows that a goodly number of Nebraska's district judges have been elevated to her supreme bench, and more would be if there were room. The Constitutional Convention of 1920 has recognized the ability of the regular trial judge to undertake even the functions of the higher court, and adopting the system of the federal bench, has provided that hereafter the chief justice of the Supreme Court may call upon the district judges to sit in the review of cases and assist the Supreme Court in its work.

Until 1875 the trial of cases in the district courts was carried on by the members of the Supreme Court, so the roster of district judges until that date coincides with the list of supreme judges.

In 1875 the state was divided into six districts, and the first set of district judges elected were, according to the districts. 1. A. J. Weaver, Falls City; 2. Stephen B. Pound, Lincoln; 3. J. W. Savage, Omaha; 4. George W. Post, York; 5. William Gaslin, Jr., Kearney; 6. Thomas L. Griffley, Dakota County, whose election was successfully contested by E. K. Valentine, who was elected to Congress in 1878 and succeeded by John B. Barnes, of Ponca. These six continued by reelection in 1879, except A. M. Post of Columbus succeeded his brother, Judge Post of York.

Six judges appointed for new districts were: new 5th district, William H. Morris, Crete; 6th, T. L. Norval, Seward; 9th, Fayette B. Tiffany, Albion; 10th, Samuel L. Savidge, Kearney; Eleazer Wakeley and James Neville, addition in Omaha. Samuel P. Davidson of Tecumseh took the place of Judge Pound, elected to Congress in 1882. In the next four years, two sets of changes were made and the number of judges brought to twenty-three in twelve districts. Those elected in 1883 were: 1. J. H. Broady, Beatrice; Thos. Appelget, Tecumseh; 2d, S. B. Pound, Lincoln; M. L. Hayward; Nebraska City; J. L. Mitchell of Nebraska City appointed in 1885, and S. M. Chapman of Plattsmouth elected in 1886 and also Allen W. Field of Lincoln; 3d, E. Wakeley and James Neville re-elected; L. A. Groff, appointed, 1887, and M. R. Hopewell, Tekamah, appointed 1887; 4th, A. M. Post, Columbus, and Wm. Marshall, appointed 1887; 5th, Morris; 6th, Norval; 8th, Gaslin; 9th, Tiffany, re-elected. In the 7th, J. C. Crawford of West Point and Isaac Powers, Jr., of Norfolk, appointed in 1887; T. O. C. Harrison, Grand Island, appointed 1887; 10th district, Francis G. Hamer, Kearney; 11th, J. E. Cochran, McCook, and 12th, M. P. Kinkaid, O'Neill, appointed 1887. The election of 1887 brought only three new judges to the district bench, George W. Doane and Joseph R. Clarkson, of Omaha; W. F. Norris of Ponca in the Sixth, vice Judge Crawford; and A. H. Church appointed to second seat in 10th district in 1889. In 1891 the state was divided into fifteen judicial districts with twenty-eight judges, and several new judges were appointed: Charles L. Hall and A. S. Tibbetts, of Lincoln in the second; H. J. Davis, Lee S. Estelle, A. N. Ferguson, and Frank Irvine in the third district; Edward Bates of York, and Matt Miller of David City in the new 5th; E. M. Coffin of Ord in the new 11th, and A. W. Crites of Chadron in the 15th.

Before proceeding further it would not be inappropriate to review this list and recount the later achievements of some of these pioneer trial judges of the state. Some of them were commissioned to go to Washington and represent Nebraska in the halls of Congress; notably Judges Weaver, Valentine, and Kinkaid. Others were elevated to the supreme bench: Judges A. M. Post, T. L. Norval, T. O. C. Harrison, Francis G. Hamer, and Frank Irvine to the commission.

The election of 1891 continued Judges Chapman, Tibbetts, Hopewell, Ferguson, Davis, Bates, Norris, Harrison and Kinkaid. It brought onto the district bench the following judges, a list from which were to spring a number of men destined to achieve even greater honors: 1st, H. A. Babeock and J. E. Bush of Beatrice; 3d, Jesse B. Strode, elected to Congress in 1894; Charles L. Hall, Lincoln; A. S. Tibbetts, Lincoln, and Ed. P. Holmes, Lincoln; 4th, W. C. Walton of Blair and from Omaha, Chas. Ogden, W. W. Keysor, R. C. Scott, G. W. Ambrose, J. H. Blair and E. R. Diffie; 5th, Robert Wheeler of Osceola; 6th, J. J. Sullivan of Columbus; 7th, W. G. Hastings, of Wilber; 9th, N. D. Jackson of Neligh, J. S. Robinson of Madison; 10th, F. B. Beall, Alma; 11th, John R. Thompson of Grand Island; 12th, Silas A. Holcomb of Broken Bow; 13th, William Neville, North Platte, and H. M. Sinclair of Kearney; 14th, D. T. Welty of Cambridge, and 15th, Alfred Bartow of Chadron. The election of 1895 brought to the district bench, 1st, C. B. Letton of Fairbury and J. S. Stull, Auburn; 2d, B. S. Ramsey, Plattsmouth; 3d, A. J. Cornish of Lincoln, who remained on the district bench for twenty-one years when he was elevated to the supreme bench where he remained until his death in 1920. Lincoln Frost of Lincoln was elected in 1897. In Omaha

new judges were B. S. Baker, Chas. T. Dickinson, Jacob Fawcett, Clinton N. Powell and W. W. Slabaugh. 5th, S. H. Sedgwick of York; 6th district, in the following four years, I. L. Albert, Columbus, James A. Grimison of Schuyler and Conrad Hollenbeck of Fremont served short periods. Judge Hollenbeck remained on the district bench twenty-one years, when he was elected chief justice of the Supreme Court and died two weeks after taking the office. 8th, R. E. Evans of Dakota City and W. V. Allen of Madison, who when elected to the United States Senate was succeeded by Douglas Cones; 11th, A. A. Kendall, St. Paul; 12th, H. M. Sullivan of Broken Bow and W. A. Greene of Kearney; 13th, H. M. Grimes of North Platte, who in 1920 was elected to a seventh four year term; 14th, G. W. Norris, Beaver City, later of McCook, and in the 15th, William H. Westover of Rushville, who in 1920 was also elected to a seventh four-year term. The four year period following the election of 1899 brought a few new members to the district bench: 2d district, Paul Jessen, Nebraska City; 4th, Irving F. Baxter of Omaha and Lee S. Estelle returned to the bench where he remained until his death in 1920, vice Judges Scott and Powell; George A. Day, now a member of the Supreme Court, where he was appointed after seventeen years of service on the district bench of Douglas County came on in 1902 as did Guy R. C. Read. In other districts judges who came on in 1899 election were: 5, B. F. Good of Wahoo and S. H. Sornberger of York; 7th, C. W. Stubbs of Superior; 8th, Guy T. Graves of Pender, who is still serving and was re-elected to another term in 1920; 9th, J. F. Boyd of Oakdale elected November 6, 1900, to fill vacancy; 10th, E. B. Adams of Minden came on by election of 1899, as did, in 11th, C. A. Munn of Ord and James N. Paul of St. Paul, who remained for sixteen years on the bench; 12th, Charles B. Gutterson of Broken Bow succeeded H. M. Sullivan; R. C. Orr of Hayes Center served with Judge Norris in the 14th, and J. J. Harrington of O'Neill came on for twelve years' service in the old 15th district. The election of 1903 and the four ensuing years brought a few changes. In the first district A. H. Babcock of Beatrice and W. H. Kelligar of Auburn succeeded Judges Letton and Stull. Judge Letton went onto the Supreme Court commission and then onto the supreme bench, where in 1920 he is still serving. Judge John B. Raper of Pawnee City was elected in 1906 to fill vacancy, and has been serving continuously since and in 1920 was re-elected for another term of four years. In the 3d Willis G. Sears of Tekamah and A. C. Troup came on and in 1920 are still serving, and relected for further service; William A. Redick of Omaha came on and has served ever since except two years; A. L. Sutton of Omaha came on and stayed until he resigned to run for governor in 1916, and Howard Kennedy, Jr., remained until he resigned to accept a seat on the New Board of Control of Public Institutions. In the 5th Arthur J. Evans of David City came on for four years; 6th, Jas. G. Reeder of Columbus; 7th, Leslie G. Hurd of Harvard, who served until 1917; 9th, with Judge Boyd came Anson A. Welch of Wayne, who in 1920 is still serving and re-elected for further service; 10th, G. L. Adams of Minden for four years; and to sit with Judge Paul of the 11th, James R. Hanna of Greeley, who remained on the bench in this district until his death seventeen years later, in June, 1920; and on the 12th Judge B. O. Hostetler of Kearney, who after serving seventeen years, was re-elected in 1920 for another term.

The election of 1907 brought a very few changes in the membership of the state's district bench. L. M. Pemberton of Beatrice came on in the first to serve until January, 1921; 2d, Harvey D. Travis of Plattsmouth, who remained until his death in 1914; in the third, Judge Willard E. Stewart, who is still serving and was in 1920 re-elected, and who succeeded Judge Holmes; in the fourth the personnel remained, Day, Estelle, Kennedy, Redick, Sears, Sutton and Troup; in the fifth, with Judge Good sat George F. Corcoran, who in 1920 was re-elected for another term; in the sixth, Judge Hollenbeck's working mate became George H. Thomas of Schuyler, and later Columbus, who remained on the bench until ill health in 1920 forced his resignation; in the tenth, Judge Harry S. Dungan of Hastings came on, to remain until 1921, having made the race for Congress in 1920 against the enormous republican landslide. In 1911 in the new 16th district, Ralph W. Hobart of Mitchell was appointed, and he is still serving, but in what is now the 17th district, and in 1920 was re-elected without opposition.

The election of 1911 brought few changes, County Judge P. James Cosgrove in Lincoln displacing Judge Frost; County Judge Charles Leslie in Omaha displacing Judge Redick; E. E. Good in the Fifth still serving in 1920; in the fourteenth Ernest B. Perry of Cambridge coming on, to remain until his resignation in 1919; in the 15th R. R. Dickson displacing Judge Harrington. Adding the 17th and 18th district placed Judge Hobart and Judge Pemberton into those districts.

In the following five year periods Governors John H. Morehead and Keith Neville had the opportunity to appoint several district judges, namely: James T. Begley in the second; vice Judge Travis, deceased; Judge Fred Shepherd in 1916 won the seat of Judge Cornish, elected to supreme bench, and Judge Leonard A. Flansburg to succeed Judge Cosgrove, who became Judge Advocate in the Army; James P. English of Omaha, vice Judge Kennedy, resigned, and upon Judge English's death Arthur C. Wakeley of Omaha, son of Eleazer Wakeley of territorial and early statehood days; William A. Redick went back on the bench vice Judge Sutton resigned; F. W. Button of Fremont vice Judge Hollenbeck, elected chief justice of Supreme Court; Andrew R. Oleson of Wisner, new place created in 9th district.

The election of 1917 brought on hardly any change in the district bench. In the 7th district Ralph D. Brown of Crete, vice Judge Hurd, and Bayard H. Paine of Grand Island, vice Judge Paul, who did not seek re-election, and ex-U. S. Senator William V. Allen of Madison succeeded Judge Oleson in the Ninth. A few changes ensued in the succeeding four years; Judge Flansburg of Lincoln was elevated to the Supreme Court commission, and Judge Elliot J. Clements appointed in his place; Judge William C. Dorsey of Bloomington, who had been appointed to a new place in the tenth district and William M. Morning to a new seat in Lancaster County. Judge Dorsey was also elevated to the Supreme Court commission and W. A. Dilworth of Holdrege appointed in his place. When Judge Day succeeded to Judge Sedgwick's seat, upon the latter's death, Charles A. Goss of Omaha was appointed by Governor McKelvie; Judge A. M. Post of Columbus was appointed in the sixth vice Judge Thomas, resigned; C. E. Eldred, McCook, vice Judge Perry, resigned, and Judge Edwin P. Clements of Ord in the eleventh vice Judge Hanna, deceased. The election of 1920 brought about the defeat of Judge Goss in Omaha, where James M. Fitzgerald and L. B. Day were elected to

the seats of Judges Goss and Estelle, who died just before election; and General Leonard W. Colby of Beatrice defeated Judge Pemberton.

So the roster of judges beginning January, 1921, will be: 1. J. B. Raper, Pawnee City; 2. J. T. Begley, Papillion; 3. W. E. Stewart; W. M. Morning, Fred Shepherd and E. J. Clements of Lincoln; 4. W. G. Sears, Tekamah; A. C. Troup, W. A. Rediek, Charles Leslie, A. C. Wakeley, J. M. Fitzgerald and L. B. Day, Omaha, 5. E. E. Good, Wahoo, and Geo. F. Corcoran, York; 6. F. W. Button, Fremont; A. M. Post, Columbus; 7. R. D. Brown, Crete; 8. Guy T. Graves, Pender; 9. A. A. Welch, Wayne; W. V. Allen, Madison; 10. W. A. Dilworth, Holdrege and Lewis H. Blackledge of Red Cloud, elected to Judge Dungan's seat; 11. Bayard H. Paine, Grand Island, and Edwin P. Clements, Ord; 12. B. O. Hostetler, Kearney; 13. H. M. Grimes, North Platte; 14. C. E. Eldred, McCook; 15. R. R. Dickson, O'Neill; 16. W. H. Westover, Rushville; 17. R. W. Hobart, Gering, and 18. L. W. Colby, Beatrice.

The old district attorney system from 1868 to 1885, when the law was changed to provide for county attorneys in each county, brought into public service over a district which allowed their ability to become recognized a group of Nebraska lawyers who deserve some mention. Those who served as district attorneys, with the number of terms and year of election, were: 1868, O. B. Hewitt, 2; John C. Cowin, Omaha, 2; E. F. Gray, Fremont, 2; 1872, A. J. Weaver, Falls City, 1; William J. Connell, Omaha, 3; Melville B. Hoxie, 3; 1874, C. J. Dilworth, father of present District Judge Dilworth, also an attorney-general of the state, 1; 1875, J. W. Eller, Omaha, 1; J. H. Broady, Lincoln, 1; John B. Barnes, Ponca, 2; 1876, J. P. Maule, Fairmont, 2; George S. Smith, Plattsmouth, 1; E. H. Buckingham of Omaha, succeeded by C. J. Greene of Omaha, 1; Manoa B. Reese, Wahoo, 3; 1878, John C. Watson, Nebraska City, 2; A. N. Ferguson, Omaha, 1; T. D. Scofield, Hastings, 1; C. C. McNish, Wisner, 2; 1880, Wm. H. Morris, Crete, 1; N. J. Burnham, Nebraska City; V. Bierbower, Sidney, 1. The election of 1882 brought in an entirely new set of district attorneys, and also the number of districts had been increased from six to seven and later three more were added. These were, 1st, Robert W. Sabin, Beatrice; 2d, J. B. Strode, Plattsmouth; 3d, Park Godwin, Omaha; 4th, Jacob C. Roberts, David City; 5th, George W. Bemis, Sutton (appointed 1883); 6th, Thomas Darnell, St. Paul; 7th, Wilbur F. Bryant, Ponca; 8th, W. S. Morlan, Arapahoe, later a prominent attorney at McCook; 9th, E. M. Coffin (appointed 1883), and 10th, J. W. Bixler, North Platte. Three of these, Strode, Darnell and Morlan remained over the last election of 1884, and the seven new ones chosen were: 1st, Daniel F. Osgood, Tecumseh; 3d, Lee S. Estelle, Blair; 4th, Wm. Marshall, Fremont; 5th, Manford Savage, Hebron; 7th, Guy R. Wilber, St. Helena; 9th, N. D. Jackson, Neligh, and 10th, H. M. Sinclair, Plum Creek.

#### LEADERS OF THE BAR

As said in the first of this chapter, a volume rather than a chapter is needed to do justice to any recital of a record of the leaders of the bar throughout the state. But there are a few members of the Nebraska bar with long records of service and practice, who have preferred to remain with their faithful clientele rather than either go upon the bench or seek other political preferment that took

them away from the practice for any extended period. While no doubt some injustice will be unwittingly done in leaving out some most worthy practitioners, in mentioning a scattered selection of a few, the compiler, who is himself a lawyer, admitted ten years ago, cannot withstand the opportunity of paying tribute to some of the leaders of the bars of the various counties in the earlier period of the state's formative career.

Much of the history of any community centers about the laws and the manner in which they are enforced. Civil law goes hand in hand with the first step of civilization into a new territory. The legislator and lawyer therefore make their appearance at the outset. It is not because the compiler, being a lawyer, desires to give undue preference to his own chosen profession that more personality and names of individuals will appear in the following brief review than in the treatment of other professions or lines of human activity in Nebraska, but because history is so largely biographical, and he knows not how else to present the history of this profession. In treating the press, while he would like to have gone into the personal qualifications of editors; in treating the church, talked more of individual ministers; in discoursing on schools, societies and business concerns, given more credit to the individuals in charge and who planned and forced their growth, the result of the newspaper, the church, the school itself stands out more. But the practice and results of a law office depend so much more upon the individual, that one cannot speak of the composite attainments of a "Bar" (a group of lawyers in a certain county) without speaking of at least the foremost leaders in activity and accomplishments.

In the recent World war, this was emphatically impressed upon the general public, when, during the period for preparing and filing questionnaires, almost every judge, court reporter, clerk of district court, sheriff, county clerk, from one to three doctors in a community and every lawyer, gave some of his time, and many devoted from a month to six weeks in December, 1917, and January, 1918, to this task, to the neglect of the entire or major portion of their regular business. In Nebraska in only one instance has a firm of lawyers been attacked for making undue financial charges for this service, and their case is still pending before a referee when these lines are written. In most instances no financial remuneration was asked or charged for this service. Lawyers, ministers, doctors, bankers, and other professional men are asked more than others to participate on the managing committee of practically every civil enterprise that comes up in the community, be it raising money for the band or church, a Red Cross or new hotel drive, or what, and they feel that there are remunerations about their work other than financial, and especial training about the same that imposes upon them the duty to respond.

#### THE EARLY BAR OF THE STATE

Quite a number of lawyers who practiced in territorial days and in the first quarter-century of the state's own history as a state made reputations that spread far beyond Nebraska's own borders.

*Omaha*—It will only be possible to call a roll of some of the pioneer lawyers of Omaha, whose names are yet familiar to the people of the city. Experience Estabrook was United States attorney in 1854, and in 1860 was delegate to Congress a short while. His son, Henry D. Estabrook, became general counsel

for the Western Union Telegraph, and just before his death in 1916 was talked of as a candidate for republican presidential nomination. Andrew J. Poppleton came before courts were established in Nebraska, served in the Legislature and as mayor of Omaha, and in 1879 became famous for his participation in the famous habeas corpus case of the Ponca Indians, mentioned elsewhere in this work. With him in that case was associated a man, John L. Webster, who became a leader of the present generation of Nebraska bar and an invaluable contributor to the compilation and preservation of Nebraska history, and who also served as president of the 1875 constitutional convention.

Other great leaders in early Omaha days were Origen D. Richardson, who assisted J. S. Sharp, A. J. Poppleton and others materially in the first revision of Nebraska statutes (1867). He read law with that other legal patriarch, Judge George B. Lake. His son, Lyman D. Richardson, was Douglas County's first registrar of deeds. Silas A. Strickland had a legislative record and military record in the Civil war reaching to a brigadier-generalship, and service as United States district attorney. Clinton Briggs, who had studied with William H. Seward, became mayor of Omaha, county judge, legislator, constitutional convention member and candidate for United States senator. William A. Little was elected first chief justice of Nebraska Supreme Court, but ill health prevented his serving and he died soon after. James M. Woolworth was first city attorney of Omaha, president of American Bar Association, author of a "Handbook on Nebraska" and "The Cathedral in America." John I. Redick served one year as United States judge for New Mexico. Among others were: John R. Meredith, associate of George W. Doane; George I. Gilbert, partner of Judge Lake at one time; George W. Doane, an early judge, whom the compiler remembers seeing often when in law college and admiring greatly; Benjamin E. B. Kennedy; Charles H. Brown; Champion S. Chase, an early mayor and first state attorney-general; Daniel Gantt, an early Supreme Court judge; Jonas Seely; Albert Swartzlander; Cuming and Turk; George H. Roberts; Charles A. Baldwin; Charles F. Manderson, city attorney of Omaha, member of constitutional conventions, United States senator, president of American Bar Association; John M. Thurston, another man who achieved the United States senatorship and national fame.

The second generation of the Omaha bar likewise produced an array of great leaders. John C. Cowin and John L. Webster, who came in 1867 and 1869, in the past twenty years have been real leaders. Timothy J. Mahoney, who died in 1916, was counted by many the greatest pleader of his day before the State Supreme Court. William J. Connell has been a wizard for years in trying cases. Sylvester R. Rush and Constantine J. Smyth have been snatched from Omaha by the Federal Government, as assistant attorney general and chief justice of District of Columbia courts. Ben T. White, Carroll S. Montgomery, Warren Switzler, William R. Kelly, Isaac E. Congdon, Frank S. Howell, Matthew A. Hall, George W. Shields, Francis A. Brogan, Charles J. Greene and Ralph W. Breckenridge, who achieved great reputations in insurance law; John P. Breen, William F. Gurley, Ben S. Bakør, H. H. Baldrige, T. W. Blackburn, Byron G. Burbank, Thomas D. Crane, J. E. Kelby, Edmund G. McGilton, Frank H. Gaines, Edson Rich, and E. W. Simeral are a few of the older members of the present generation of lawyers, most of whom are still living and practicing, and some of whom have passed beyond in very recent years.



*Lincoln*—The pioneer lawyer of the county was John S. Gregory, who practiced here as early as 1864. The roster in 1876 will include most of the early leaders of this bar: John H. Ames, George K. Amory, Newton C. Abbott, L. W. Billingsly, Carlos C. Burr, Erastus E. Brown, Lionel C. Burr, Guy A. Brown, Amasa Cobb, Paren England, Smith B. Galey, D. G. Hull, N. S. Harwood, Robert Knight, Walter J. Lamb, G. M. Lambertson, M. Montgomery, Robert E. Moore, T. M. Marquett, James E. Philpot, Rollo O. Phillips, A. C. Ricketts, Adolphus G. Scott, M. H. Sessions, Samuel J. Tuttle, Charles O. Whedon, Joseph R. Webster, Jeff D. Weston, Joseph Hunter and A. J. Sawyer. So far as the compiler knows only L. C. Burr, R. E. Moore, A. C. Ricketts, S. J. Tuttle and A. J. Sawyer are still living in Lincoln and J. E. Philpot in the western part of the state.

Hoping to be excused from any charge of discrimination in mentioning the living or recently deceased members of the bar, the compiler feels there are a few others, whom he has personally known, who should be also entitled to be credited with a leading part in moulding the legal course of Lancaster County affairs. Geo. A. Adams, John S. Bishop, Elmer J. Burkett, formerly United States senator; Henry H. Wilson, almost every Nebraska lawyer's teacher in law school, sometime in the past thirty years; T. J. Doyle, C. C. Flansburg, father of present Judge Flansburg of the Supreme Court; Allan W. Field, most distinctly a real factor in the history of Lancaster County; E. J. Hainer, Frank M. Hall, Frank H. Woods, Judge Edward P. Holmes, Don L. Love, former mayor of Lincoln; R. S. Mockett, Judge W. M. Morning, Charles O. Whedon, W. B. Comstock, A. J. Sawyer, John M. Stewart, A. S. Tibbetts, and F. M. Tyrrell. In Adams County: R. D. Babcock, John F. Ballinger, Robert A. Batty, James Laird, and Benjamin F. Smith were Hastings lawyers of the seventies; George W. Tibbetts, C. F. Morey, Phillip H. Fuller, J. W. James, F. P. Olstead, W. P. McCreary, J. M. Ragan, J. S. Snider and C. E. Higginbotham have been more recent leaders of this bar.

It will not be possible in the brief space we can take at this time to take every county. The compiler therefore will hurriedly sketch over the state and give honorable mention to a few of the leaders of various local bars, who have been particularly prominent in the past quarter-century, now and then touching upon some of a more pioneer period. *Ainsworth*—A. W. Scattergood, W. M. Ely, J. C. Tolliver; *Albion*—James S. Armstrong, Judge F. B. Tiffany in early days, and later period, A. E. Garten, O. M. Needham, H. C. Vail and Frank D. Williams; *Alliance*—William Mitchell, L. A. Berry, B. F. Gilman, and E. H. Boyd and E. C. Barker of the younger bar; *Alma*—John Everson, J. G. Thompson and O. E. Shelburn, of the later bar; *Auburn*—Judge W. H. Kelligar, Judge Stull, Supreme Court Commissioner W. C. Parriott, John S. McCarty, and E. B. Quackenbush of later bar. In very early days at Brownville a coterie of lawyers appeared, none of whom were practicing as late as 1880; D. L. McGary, O. B. Hewett, W. C. Johnson, J. D. N. Thompson, H. P. Buxton, S. Belden, R. L. Dodge, J. B. Weston and J. S. Bedford. *Aurora*—Early members of prominence in this bar included Thomas Darnall, A. W. Agee, E. J. Hainer, J. H. Smith, W. L. Stark, H. M. Kellogg, J. H. Edmundson, F. M. Coykendall, and later J. H. Grosvenor, C. P. Craft, F. A. Bald, M. F. Stanley, F. E. Edgerton, and C. L. Whitney. *Beatrice*—Jefferson B. Weston was first resident lawyer of Gage County; Charles C. Coffinberry (C. B. R. E.), a very picturesque pioneer attorney; S. B. Harrington, the first lawyer to maintain an office in Beatrice; Nathan K. Griggs, Hiram P. Webb,

W. H. Ashby, S. C. B. Dean, E. S. Chadwick, Leonard W. Colby, who came in 1873 and in 1920 was elected district judge; W. H. Somers, Alfred Hazlett, A. J. Hale, Frank N. Prout, Thomas F. Burke, later attorney general of Wyoming; N. T. Gadd, for many years past a prominent lawyer of Broken Bow, Custer County; Menzo Terry, R. S. Bibb, J. E. Cobbey, author of numerous Nebraska legal text books and for many years compiler of Nebraska statutes. The more recent Gage County bar presents such names as C. L. Brewster, Hugh J. Dobbs, Fulton Jack, A. H. Kidd, Ernest O. Kretsinger, Samuel Rinaker, Robert W. Sabin, Harry E. Sackett, and Ex-Supreme Court Commissioner F. O. McGirr. Among younger lawyers are John W. Delchant, F. W. Messmore and Walter Vasey. Beaver City—Judge E. B. Perry, John C. Stevens and E. J. Lambe. Blair—From Blair have come Lee S. Estelle, Herman Aye, W. C. Walton, F. S. Howell, and Clark O'Hanlon, E. B. Carrigan and J. C. Eller are still there. Bloomington—From this bar have come Judge W. C. Dorsey and A. H. Byrum. Broken Bow—This bar has produced two supreme judges, Silas A. Holcomb, also governor, and James R. Dean; District Judges Holcomb, Gutterson and H. M. Sullivan; John S. Kirkpatrick of Supreme Court commission; A. R. Humphrey, commissioner of public lands and buildings; N. T. Gadd, A. Morgan, E. E. Squires and A. P. Johnson; and has always been a strong bar, and from three years' experience practicing at this point, this compiler can attest to the excellence of this bar. Burwell—C. I. Bragg, Guy Laverty and E. M. White; Cambridge—Judge E. B. Perry; Central City—This bar has sent forth George W. Ayers, for ten years a mainstay in attorney general's office; John C. Martin, J. Patterson and sons, E. E. Ross; Chadron—A. W. Crites and sons and Allan G. Fisher have graced this bar; Clay Center—J. L. A. C. and C. H. Epperson have helped to build up the Clay County bar; Columbus—A bar with such lawyers as Judge John J. Sullivan, Judge George H. Thomas, Judge I. L. Albert, Judge A. M. Post, and Judge J. G. Reeder raises requirements that force every lawyer who survives in the practice thereat to be a "stemwinder." Crawford—In recent years E. M. Slattery and J. E. Porter have particularly shone. Creighton—With Joseph F. Green, W. A. Merserve and J. H. Berryman to lead, this bar has been good. Crete and Wilber—George H. Hastings, Judge Brown, at Crete, and formerly W. G. Hastings, Bartos Bros., B. V. Kahout and Grimm & Son at Wilber have given Saline County strong legal service. David City—This has always been a good "trial work" bar; with such men as Judge A. J. Evans, Judge (Governor) C. H. Aldrich, L. S. Hastings, Judge Matt Miller, C. M. Skiles, R. C. Roper, A. M. Walling, how could it be otherwise? Fairbury—G. S. Merritt, C. B. Stocumb, W. H. Snell and M. Warren were very early attorneys here. Later came John E. Heasty, W. H. Barnes, F. N. Prout, C. H. Denney, W. J. Moss, E. H. Hinshaw, and John C. Hartigan. Falls City—All the way from Isham Reavis, father of Congressman C. F. Reavis, and Judge A. J. Weaver, father of the president of constitutional convention of 1920, down to J. C. Mullen, the Dorts and other arrivals of past decade, this has been a strong bar. E. Falloon, John Gagnon, R. C. James, A. E. Gantt, J. E. Leyda, A. R. Scott, J. R. Wilheit and John Wiltse have all tried to make this so. Fremont—This is a bar which has furnished both judicial and literary timber. Judge Marshall, Judge Hollenbeck, and Judge Button have proved the first; A. K. Dame has proved the latter, and Frank Dolezal, W. J. Countright, S. S. Sidner, Allen Johnson, George L. Loomis, J. C. Cook, N. H.

Mapes, A. H. Briggs, E. F. Gray, A. B. Hinman, Waldo Wintersteen, R. J. Stinson, J. E. Daly and F. W. Vaughn have also proved a real "trial" ability for this bar. Fullerton—J. H. Kemp, G. N. Anderson, and W. L. Rose have been lawyers who gained a standing far beyond Nance County. Geneva—C. H. and Frank W. Sloan as well as J. J. Burke, J. R. Waring and John Barsby have reflected credit upon Fillmore County. Grand Island—When the first court was held here in 1868, the entire resident Hall County bar was O. A. Abbott, Sr., and fifty-three years later as these lines are written, this worthy dean of the bar is still in the active practice and trying hard-fought cases, and his two sons have long since been admitted. Other early veterans of this bar were W. H. Platt, George H. Thummell, now of Omaha, T. O. C. Harrison, later district and supreme judge; John D. Hayes; William H. Thompson, the "little giant," now in 1920 both democratic national committeeman and member of the commission planning and building the new state capitol; and his brother, District Judge John R. Thompson, whose court reporter, Bayard H. Paine, is now in 1920 district judge, and was the trial judge in the famous Cole-Grammer case in Howard County in 1918. In the past thirty years Hall County has had a group of able lawyers whose service has been extended to all parts of central and western Nebraska, notably, Gov. O. A. Abbott, Fred W. Ashton, Mayor J. L. Cleary, Willard A. Prince, R. R. Horth, Arthur C. Mayer, Bayard H. Paine, Charles G. Ryan, W. H. Thompson and J. H. Woolley. Greeley—General James H. Barry, George W. Scott and Judge James R. Hanna were giants of this bar twenty years ago, with T. P. Lanigan, who is still actively practicing with his sons, J. M. and T. W. Lanigan; James R. Swain, and T. J. Howard have been active practitioners. Hartington—This bar has offered the state, Wilbur F. Bryant, H. E. Burkett, R. J. Millard, B. Ready, J. C. Robinson and C. H. Whitney. Hebron—Known beyond Thayer County have been J. T. McCuiston, C. L. Richards and M. H. Weiss, especially. Holdrege—This bar has had veteran lawyers such as W. P. Hall, brother of Frank M. Hall of Lincoln; Gus Norberg, G. H. Johnson, A. J. Shafer, S. A. Dravo, Judge W. A. Dilworth, and the present attorney-general, Clarence A. Davis, had started in practice there when elected to that office. Kearney—Very early lawyers in this county were H. C. Andrews, John Barnd, E. C. Calkins, who became a supreme court commissioner and one of the recognized lawyers of Central Nebraska; E. M. Cunningham, James E. Gillespie, Judge Francis G. Hamer, one of the trial wizards of early Nebraska days, and later a district and Supreme Court judge, being a member of the latter court when he died in 1918, and A. H. Connor, his old-time partner; Judge W. L. Greene, considered one of Nebraska's very greatest orators; L. S. Irvin; Samuel L. Savidge. In later years another group of lawyers became prominent at this bar, including Frank E. Beeman, ex-United States Senator Norris Brown, now practicing in Omaha, John N. Dryden, J. M. Easterling, W. H. Hand, N. P. McDonald, Fred A. Nye, John A. Miller, Willis D. Oldham, formerly Supreme Court commissioner and counted one of the best orators of the present generation in Nebraska; Warren Pratt and H. M. Sinclair. Lexington—The list of early lawyers here included A. S. Baldwin, Thomas J. Hewitt, T. L. Warrington, W. A. Stewart, and later on came E. A. Cook, George C. Gillan, T. M. Hewitt, John H. Linderman, D. H. Moulds, N. E. Olsen and John I. Negley. Loup City has been the home of several very well known lawyers, including R. J. Nightingale and son, who have moved to the Pacific Coast,

Judge Aaron Wall, one of the most eloquent of Nebraska lawyers in the court room, J. S. Pedlar, R. H. Mathew and R. P. Starr. McCook—This bar has been favored with such talent as F. S. Senator G. W. Norris, W. S. Morlan, F. L. Wolfe, C. D. Ritchie, Judge C. E. Eldred and C. H. Boyle. Madison, is another bar that has sent forth men who became well known, the dean of this bar being Judge W. V. Allen; but here have also practiced M. B. Foster, M. S. McDuffee, Willis E. Reed, James Nichols and W. L. Dowling, while in the same county at Norfolk have been Judge J. B. Barnes, H. F. Barnhardt, Burt Mapes, who died a few weeks ago in 1920, Jack and Arthur Koenigstein, M. C. Hazen, M. D. Tyler, Charles H. Kelsey and Webb Rice, who came over from Neligh. North Platte has had an exceptionally strong bar. Some of its leaders have been J. G. Beeler, J. S. Hoagland and son W. V., Albert Muldoon. Minden—Here have been L. W. Hague, C. P. Anderberry, Charles A. Chappell, Milo D. King, Lewis C. Paulsen, J. L. McPheeley and J. H. Robb. Nebraska City—This town being one of the very oldest has had practically an older and a newer bar. Among the very early lawyers were S. H. Calhoun, A. S. Cole, George W. Covell, J. T. Greenwood, Monroe L. Hayward, who was elected to the United States Senate just before his death, and whose son, William Hayward, has achieved national fame in recent years; John F. Kinney, a judge of the Supreme Court of Iowa, before his career of prominence in Nebraska began; Edwin J. Murfin, C. W. Seymour, S. J. and T. B. Stevenson, Edwin F. Warren; later came Paul Jessen, D. W. Livingston, A. P. and W. F. Moran, W. H. Pitzer, A. C. Bisehoff, W. W. Wilson, and John C. Watson. O'Neill has been the home of one of Nebraska's greatest trial wizards, M. F. Harrington, and his brother, Judge J. J. Harrington, Judge Dickson, Arthur F. Mullen, Congressman M. P. Kinkaid, J. A. Donahoe; and O'Neill within the past fifteen years has probably sent more of her sons to the Nebraska law schools than any town of her size in the state. Ord has furnished a number of lawyers whose prestige reached beyond Valley County. Three of this number have become district judge, Charles A. Munn and E. P. Clements and E. J. Clements, brothers, both appointed to that honor in 1920; A. Norman and A. M. Robbins were well known trial lawyers; Claude A. Davis and his brother Clarence M. Davis are now the senior lawyers of this bar, and recently the sons of two of the old veterans of the bar started in practice together. George A. Munn, Ralph G. Norman, and E. L. Vogeltanz took over Judge Clements' office. The leading firms at Osceola in the past two decades have been King and Bittner, Mills, Beebe & Mills, and Ball & Johnston. Pawnee City is another point that had a very early bar and a more recent one. Judge J. B. Raper, Supreme Court Clerk Harry C. Lindsay, R. W. and A. I. Story, and E. A. Barton have been leaders of this bar. Pender has had among other lawyers Judge Graves, Howard Saxton and Thomas L. Sloan, an Indian, who built up a national reputation in his defense of his race and has now moved to Washington, D. C., to devote his attention exclusively to that aim. Plattsmouth is one of those points settled so long ago, it requires two stories to tell of its bar, first, the pioneers among whom numbered J. H. Brown, who in 1855 was the first lawyer to locate here. A. H. Townsend came in 1856, Willett Pottenger and T. M. Marquette, later of Lincoln, came in 1856 also, and S. H. Elbert next. Maxwell & Chapman began business in 1865, the former being Samuel Maxwell, who served the longest of any member of the Nebraska Supreme Court and was author of a series of legal text books still

in daily use by the Nebraska bar and never yet displaced as standard authorities. Beeson and McLennan came soon after that. In 1882 there were nineteen attorneys practicing in Plattsmouth; and in 1909 there were eighteen listed. Among the later lawyers of the Cass County bar appears the names of Byron Clark, now Nebraska counsel for the Burlington Railroad system; D. O. Dwyer, Matt Gering, who has gained a great reputation both as a trial lawyer and an orator; B. S. Ramsey and his son W. C. Ramsey, now in Omaha; C. A. Rawls, James Robertson, former Supreme Court judge Jesse L. Root, also of the Burlington Railroad staff now; A. L. Tidd, Judge H. D. Travis, and R. B. Windham, also one of the foremost active spirits in the preservation of Nebraska annals. Ponca was the early field of Judge John B. Barnes, W. E. Gantt, Judge W. F. Norris, and in later years J. J. McCarthy, W. D. McCarthy, C. A. Kingsbury and John V. Pearson. Red Cloud has had several lawyers of prestige beyond Webster County, Judge L. H. Blackledge, Bernard McNeny, one of the foremost trial lawyers of southern Nebraska; J. S. Gilham, C. W. Kaley, F. E. Maurer, and E. U. Overman. St. Paul had produced two district judges, A. A. Kendall and James N. Paul. Frank J. Taylor and T. T. Bell have attained considerable prestige as practicing attorneys. Schuyler—C. J. Phelps came to Colfax County in 1869 when it had less than two hundred inhabitants; Russell & Chambers, John H. Brown and Miles Zentmyer were other very early lawyers. James A. Grimison and George H. Thomas became district judges, and other prominent lawyers who practiced at Schuyler were Supreme Court Commissioner W. M. Cain, lately of Fremont, W. I. Allen, B. F. Farrell, George W. Wertz; Mrs. J. A. Grimison was admitted in 1889, and practiced with her husband. Scottsbluff is a rather recent town, started only twenty years ago, but has several very able lawyers. Fred A. Wright had one of the largest practices in western Nebraska prior to his removal to Omaha in 1921. Wm. and Thos. M. Morrow, L. L. Raymond, and Beach Coleman came when the town was yet young. Robert G. Simmons of this bar is State Commander of American Legion in 1921. Seward has been the home of Norval Brothers, one of whom sat on the supreme bench. John N. Edwards, Henry C. Page, Daniel C. McKillip, Thomas E. Sanders, Robert St. Clair, Ross P. Anderson and O. T. B. Williams were early lawyers here. L. H. McKillip, H. D. Landis, and the sons of the Norvals have developed in recent years, and Jacob J. Thomas of this point has been one of the recognized leaders of the Nebraska bar. Judge Norval's firm is one of the recognized offices of the state. Sidney—W. P. Miles of this town has been one of the best known criminal practitioners in Nebraska legal history; his former partner J. L. McIntosh has also developed a good standing. At Stanton have practiced W. P. Cowan, G. A. Eberly, J. A. Ehrhardt, A. A. Kearney and W. W. Young. The Tecumseh bar has a long history; Judge Samuel P. Davidson began the practice there in 1872; D. F. Osgood, for past ten years at Hyannis, Neb., was formerly there; and in more recent years have been A. N. Dafoe, L. C. Chapman, Jay Moore and Hugh Lamaster, now counsel for Nebraska State Railway Commission, and as such an assistant attorney-general. Tekamah has been the home of M. R. and W. M. Hopewell, B. C. Enyart, Judge W. G. Sears, and J. A. Singhaus. At Valentine, F. M. Walcott has been a leading attorney; Chief Justice Andrew M. Morrissey of present Supreme Court formerly practiced here; and E. G. Clarke, J. C. Quigley, John M. Tucker, and R. G. Easley have been successful practitioners. The

Wahoo bar furnished to the state Chief Justice Manoh B. Reese, and if it had never done any more than that would be entitled to rank among the best in the state. Other early lawyers here were Nelson H. Bell, J. R. Gilkeson, early partner of Judge Reese; C. S. Johnson, and in recent years among the practitioners here have been J. H. Barry, Judge B. F. Good, now of Lincoln; Judge E. E. Good, formerly of Supreme Court commission and now of district bench; B. E. Hendricks, E. E. Placek, and C. H. Slama. Wayne has had A. R. Davis, F. A. Berry, Judge A. A. Welch, J. Britton and George R. Wilber. West Point has been the home of J. C. Elliott, well known in northeastern Nebraska, F. D. Hunker, S. S. Krake, P. M. Moodie and A. G. Burke. At Wisner, in the same county of Cuming, have been Jesse C. McNish and Judge A. R. Oleson. York has been the home of District and Supreme Court Judge Samuel H. Sedgwick, his brother, Theron E. Sedgwick; Judge George W. Post, Judge George F. Corcoran, M. M. Wildman, Geo. M. Spurlock, Senator Charles E. Sandall, Judge Arthur G. Wray, who made such a remarkable race for governor in 1920 without a party designation; E. A. and C. F. Gilbert, G. B. France, J. W. Purinton, C. F. Stroman, O. S. Gilmore, and W. W. Wycoff.

The foregoing review has only attempted to touch the larger centers of population and county seat towns of larger population throughout the state, as it is in such places that the greater portion of the law practice centers and the lawyers who gain wide experience in trying cases reside. But this rule, like all others, has notable exceptions, and no doubt we have overlooked lawyers residing in smaller places who have been most adept in their profession. We cannot close this review without paying especial tribute to a record made by one county bar in Nebraska that perhaps was not excelled in the United States. During the recent World war almost the entire Morrill County, Neb., bar went into military service. At the opening of the war there were eleven members of this bar exclusive of County Judge Stueteville, not very actively engaged in the practice. Of those eleven, seven went into the service, or about seventy per cent of this bar left their office and clientele and entered service. William Ritchie, Claiborne G. Perry, Thos. F. Neighbors, George W. Irwin, Yale H. Cavatt and Charles Mantz went into military service; F. E. Williams went over-seas as a Y. M. C. A. worker, and K. W. McDonald figured at one time on leaving; Judge L. G. Hurd, formerly of Harvard, came after the departure of Mr. Williams to care for his office, and located there upon his return. This left at home only Judge George J. Hunt, K. W. McDonald, Fred I. Nichols and later Judge Hurd.

## CHAPTER XIII

### AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF NEBRASKA

AGRICULTURAL NEBRASKA—THE CORN INDUSTRY (W. W. BURR)—THE WHEAT INDUSTRY (W. W. BURR)—FLOURING MILLS—CREAMERIES IN NEBRASKA—THE DAIRY INDUSTRY (J. H. FRANSDEN)—ALFALFA IN NEBRASKA (R. P. CRAWFORD)—BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY (ANDERSON-LASSEN)—THE POTATO INDUSTRY (R. F. HOWARD)—HORTICULTURAL RESOURCES (R. F. HOWARD)—DRY FARMING (C. S. HAWK)—IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA (GEO. E. JOHNSON)—THE BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY (HOWARD GRAMLICH)—THE SWINE INDUSTRY (SAM MC KELVIE)—THE SHEEP INDUSTRY (J. D. WHITMORE)—THE HORSE INDUSTRY (THOMAS BRADSTREET)—THE POULTRY INDUSTRY (F. E. MUSSEIL)—BEES IN NEBRASKA (FRANK G. ODELL).

#### AGRICULTURAL NEBRASKA

Nebraska is rich in agricultural resources, development and possibilities. Much of the agriculture has passed the experimental stage. It is more or less specialized and standardized. Land values average higher than in most states. There are practically no public lands left subject to entry. Everything, except tracts of a few acres each, is deeded and managed as ranches and farms.

*Rich Heritage*—The deep, fertile soils of Nebraska represent a heritage of great value. Though there are more than 100 kinds of soil, much of the land is stone free. Broad stretches of comparatively smooth country have a subsoil 50 to 100 feet deep and as rich as the surface soil except for the lower per cent of humus. Such large areas of this kind are not found in any other state.

The diversity of soils, topography, and rainfall in Nebraska cause a diversified agriculture. They determine the distribution of grazing, dry farming, irrigation, and humid farming.

Nebraska ranches and farms are well improved. Most of them use machinery and motor power. There is more than average efficiency per unit of labor. In other words, the per capita production is high.

*Farmers' Organizations*—The various branches of agricultural industry are organized to further production and distribution. For example, there are swine breeders, livestock associations, dairy organizations, corn growers and fruit growers, representing specialized industry, and the more general organizations, such as the Farmers' Congress, Farmers' Union, etc.

*Farm Papers*—The daily press, farm journals, and other publications are found in every country home. The Nebraska Press Association is furthering conservation and state development.

The following articles by competent persons cover the leading agricultural industries of Nebraska.

## HISTORY OF NEBRASKA

## THE CORN INDUSTRY

By W. W. Burr, Professor of Agronomy, The University of Nebraska.

**Importance of Corn.** Corn is Nebraska's principal crop, being grown on about one-half of the cultivated area of the state. In fact, the favorable climate and good soil make the state especially adapted to corn growing. The cash value and acreage of corn is more than the total of wheat, oats, rye and barley. Since 1910 the corn acreage has increased slightly. The acreage in 1910 was 6,595,088, while in 1918 it was 6,954,061 acres. In 1918, however, the total yield was 123,298,649 bushels, while in 1910 with a smaller acreage the yield was 178,923,128 bushels. This decrease in yield in 1918 was due largely to the low rainfall. The total value of the crop in 1918 was \$160,288,213, as contrasted with \$87,877,546 in 1910. The total acreage in 1919 was 7,639,811 with a production of 182,250,823 bushels valued at \$227,813,528.75. War time prices have brought unusual prosperity to the corn-growers of the state.

**Varieties.** The common varieties for the southeastern parts of the state are Reid's Yellow Dent, Hogue's Yellow Dent, Chase's White Dent, Iowa's Silver Mine, St. Charles White, and corns of that type. The ears grow 8 to 10 inches long and 7 inches in circumference. The kernels are rather deeply indented, have rather distinct keystone shape and are starchy.

For the central parts of the state, modifications of the above varieties as well as Calico and Gund's White are grown.

**Sweet corn.** In some sections of the state, especially in the southeastern part, considerable sweet corn is grown on a commercial basis. This is supplied to the canneries in those sections. Several varieties are being grown. The industry has usually brought good returns.

**Pop Corn.** In the central and northeastern parts of the state, pop corn is grown on a commercial basis, the rice variety being the one ordinarily grown. Under prices that have normally obtained around three cents a pound to the grower, the returns have been satisfactory. During war conditions, the price to the grower was as high as six or seven cents per pound. Some growers are putting the pop corn in cribs in order to hold and find their own markets. Previously most of the pop corn has been grown under contract.

## THE WHEAT INDUSTRY

By W. W. Burr, Professor of Agronomy, The University of Nebraska

**Acreage and Production.** Next to corn, wheat is Nebraska's most important grain crop. The rapid development of the western sections of the state together with war prices has in recent years induced a large increase in acreage. From 1,000,950 acres in 1890, wheat in 1918 reached 3,827,659 acres, with a yield of 43,211,810 bushels, representing in that year a valuation of \$88,483,680. Since the '80s there has been steady increase in production per acre. According to figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the yield per acre was 10.8 bushels, for the 10-year period from 1886 to 1896; the next 10 years 15.4 bushels and during the 10-year period from 1906 to 1915, 17.8 bushels. The average yield



for the entire United States from 1907 to 1915 was 15 bushels per acre. The acreage in Nebraska for 1919 was 4,383,731, and the yield of 60,980,427 bushels represented a valuation of \$121,675,881.10.

**Winter Wheat.** The increase in wheat growing after 1890 was due largely to the popularity of raising winter wheat. Prior to that time, most wheat grown in Nebraska was spring wheat, but now very little spring wheat is grown. Attempts to grow winter wheat were unsuccessful until the present Turkey Red was introduced. The most extensive wheat area of the state is south of the Platte and west of Gage and Lancaster counties. There are several important areas in the western counties. Wheat is grown in all agricultural districts of Nebraska.

Wherever winter wheat can be grown, it is more desirable than spring wheat because it gives the larger yields. Winter wheat ripens earlier, thus escaping some danger of dry weather, insects, and disease. In the eastern counties, if the weather is hot and dry, spring wheats are usually shriveled, while if the weather is moist, warm and favorable to the development of rust, the crop will not properly fill. Spring wheat is most extensively grown in the northern and northwestern counties.

**Varieties of Winter Wheat.** The Turkey Red, Kharkov, and Beloglina or any of the Crimean wheats are well adapted and hardy. Turkey Red is far more commonly grown than any other winter wheat in the state. Marvelous, a comparatively recent variety, has given good yields but of somewhat inferior quality.

**Varieties of Spring Wheat.** Two distinct types of spring wheat are the Common and Durum or Macaroni. The latter does not do well in humid weather. It is adapted to a rainfall of under twenty inches. Durum is grown rather extensively in the western and northwestern parts of the state. Of the common spring wheats the Swedish, Bearded Fife, Marquis, and Early Java have given good results in Nebraska. The Swedish and Marquis are both commercial varieties and can be obtained on that basis.

#### FLOURING MILLS

Nebraska has become not only an important wheat state, but also a great proportion of the wheat produced in the state is milled right at the doors of the fields. Nebraska has several of the largest flouring mills in the United States, outside of the vast mills in and around Minneapolis. The mills of the Wells, Abbott & Nieman Co. at Schuyler producing Puritan Flour supply a quantity of product, the greatest proportion of which is shipped out of the state, all over the country and to foreign shores. Omaha has the large Mancy Mills. A number of the older and important mills of the state were consolidated in 1919 into the Consolidated Milling Co., which took over the Henry Glade Mills of Grand Island, operated by that family since 1883 and the successor of a mill started in 1867; the Hastings Mill, the Ravenna Mills and the Blackburn & Furry Mills at St. Edward. The new Lexington Roller Mills are one of the biggest of their kind in the Central West. The Gooch Mills at Lincoln are among the leading plants of the country. The Crete Mills is another immense plant of this line. Among the Nebraska towns which have built up successful mills are: Ainsworth, Albion, Alexandria, Atkinson, Avoca, Abie, Arapahoe, Auburn, Aurora, Beatrice, Beaver City, Beemer, Bennington, Blair, Bloomfield, Bloomington, Blue Springs, which has natural water power from the Blue River; Brainard, Broken Bow, Burwell, with excellent water power from the Loup; Boelus,

where a great electric power dam is situated upon the Loup; Bruning, Battle Creek, Cambridge, Colelesser, Chappell, Callaway, Campbell, Cedar Rapids, Central City, Clarkson, Clearwater, Columbus, Comstock, Cook, Cozad, Creighton, Crete, Champion, Culbertson, Chadron, Crawford, De Witt, David City, Deshler, Doniphan, Dorchester, Elmcreek, Elmwood, Exeter, Elgin, Franklin, Fremont, Friend, Geneva, Genoa, Gibbon, Gordon, Grand Island, Grant, Greenwood, Gothenberg, Gretua, Hardy, Hartington, Hastings, Day Springs, Hemingford, Hebron, Hershey, Hildreth, Holdrege, Homer, Howells, Humboldt, Humphrey, Indianola, Jansen, Jannita, Kearney, Kenesaw, Kimball, Litchfield, Laurel, Lawrence, Lewellen, Lexington, Lincoln, Loup City, Lynch, Lyons, Madison, Mason City, Maywood, Minden, Mitchell, Milford for corn; Monroe, Martinsburg, Neligh, Newcastle, Newman Grove, Norfolk, North Bend, North Platte, Nehawka, Orchard, Orleans, Osceola, Oak, Oakdale, with splendid water power; Ogalalla, Omaha, Ord, Papillion, Pender, Pierce, Plainview, Plattsmouth, Polk, Platte Center, Pleasant Hill, Randolph, Ravenna, Red Cloud, Riverton, Rushville, Royal, St. Edward, Salem, Schuyler, Scribner, Seward, Snyder, Spalding, Spencer, Sterling, Superior, Surprise, Syracuse; some milling at Silver Creek, Sweetwater, Stanton, Shelton, Springview, Stamford, Sutton, Tecumseh, Tilden, Ulysses, Valentine, Valparaiso, Verdigre, Wahoo, West Point, Wilber, Wisner, Wood River, Wynot, Wayne, and York.

Many of these mills are not very large plants, and oftentimes when a flour mill becomes a poor paying investment, it is continued as a grist mill, and sometimes changed into an alfalfa mill. Numerous mills of those listed herein also have machinery for alfalfa milling. But in addition there are a number of alfalfa mills through the state, notably at Kearney, Lexington, Cozad, Elmcreek, Hershey, Mitchell, Seward and Fort Calhoun. Valley and Waterloo, in Douglas County, have large seed houses, and at Ord and North Loup, the pop corn seed industry is important, this Valley County territory ranking a second pop-corn producing center in the country. A list of mills compiled in 1919 and 1920 will soon be out of date, as mills come and go, but the roster of towns that now have mills, or have had until a very recent date, through the diversity in size, location and other characteristics serves to emphasize the fact that Nebraska is an agricultural state from one border to the other, and that wheat is one of the important agricultural factors in the state's resources.

Second to agricultural activities of Nebraska, comes her live stock and dairying business. The importance of Omaha as a live stock center emphasized in another part of this chapter, with her great packing houses and stock yards, serves to bear this out. Lincoln has a reasonable sized stock yards, and a good packing plant. A successful packing plant has operated at Nebraska City for many years, and two small packing plants are operating in 1920 at Grand Island.

Practically every railroad station in the state has a small receiving yard for stock, and the important division centers, as Grand Island, Fremont, Norfolk, in most cases have a fairly equipped stock yards, for transfer and feeding purposes as the cattle are en route to market at Omaha or farther points. Grand Island has the second largest horse and mule markets in the country, and a number of other smaller towns are establishing such market places. A number of condensed milk plants have been put in at Curtis, Fairbury, Garland and other points; a number of the creameries in the state also have ice cream manufacturing plants and a few are devoted to that sole purpose.

## CREAMERIES IN NEBRASKA.

Nebraska has two of the largest creamery plants in the United States, especially the Beatrice creamery plant at Lincoln and the Fairmont creamery plants at Crete and Grand Island. Omaha has several creameries and wholesale receiving stations for creamery companies. Firms located at Omaha are Beatrice Creamery Co., Fairmont Creamery Co., Kirschbaum & Sons, Waterloo Creamery Co., Alfalfa Butter Co., David Cole Co., Harding Ice Cream Co., Alamito Dairy Co., Fremont Creamery Co., and numerous other firms. Lincoln comes second as a butter and egg market, with the big Beatrice creamery plant, the Lincoln Pure Butter Co. and the operations of Roberts Dairy Co., which also have a cheese factory at Milford. The Beatrice Creamery Co. have their plants also at Beatrice and Central City. The Ravenna Creamery Co., in addition to the home plant at Ravenna, have plants at Ord and Loup City. The Waterloo Creamery Co. have plants at Omaha, Waterloo and Papillion. Nebraska has been dotted with a myriad of smaller creameries, located, among others, at the following towns: Arcadia, Aurora, Albion, Callaway, Chambers, Coleridge, Comstock, Columbus, Fremont, Fairbury, Fontanelle, Humboldt, Kearney, Morrill, North Platte, Norfolk, Archer, Alliance, York, Woobach, Verdigre, Scottsbluff, Superior, Randolph and Minden, for ice cream; Nebraska City, McCook, O'Neill, Louisville, Holdrege, Hemingford, Hastings, Germantown, Deshler, Burwell, Bridgeport, Eagle, Hartington, Hay Springs, Hildreth, Howells, Leigh, Madison, Red Cloud, Riverton, St. Paul, Schuyler, Spalding, West Point, Mullen and Palmer.

Even should a few newer plants have been inadvertently overlooked in this list, or a few that may have closed down in the last year or two not been culled out, the foregoing list shows conclusively that the dairying industry in Nebraska has reached the stage where it has very evenly spread into all parts of the commonwealth.

## THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

By J. H. Fransden, Professor of Dairy Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska has importance in dairying, yet the conditions favor a much larger development of the industry. Among the favorable conditions are healthful climate, good water, a large number of suitable feeds, and transportation facilities for marketing the dairy products.

Number of Cows. The number of milch cows reported for Nebraska has increased during the past few years. The 1918 census shows 530,113 cows valued at \$47,710,170. This is a distribution of about seven cows per square mile, whereas there is room for three or four times this number.

Forms of the Dairy Industry. The dairy industry includes the production of milk and cream, butter-making and the by-products connected therewith, and the manufacture of large quantities of ice cream. Creameries, cream stations, condensories, and milk depots are established in various parts of the state. The largest butter-making centers are Omaha and Lincoln.

Milk is produced and separated on many farms and ranches. The separated milk is fed to live stock and the cream is used or shipped. Many small dairies supply the towns and cities with milk. Some home-made butter is sold on local markets.

Small and large dairies haul and ship milk to towns and cities. Cream is collected at hundreds of stations and shipped to the butter-making centers.

More progress has been made in the dairy industry in Nebraska during the past two years than during any ten-year period previously, according to J. E. Palm, secretary of the Nebraska Dairymen's Association, upon November 21, 1920.

Although the state still ranks comparatively low in the milk producing states, it is fourth in butter production. "This has been brought about," Mr. Palm says, "by the breeding of better stock, dairymen and farmers realizing that by raising pure bred animals their butter production will be increased."

Nebraska, he says, is admirably adapted to the dairy industry. "Few states have greater possibilities in dairying than Nebraska," he says. To substantiate this statement, Mr. Palm calls attention to the fact that during last year the state produced more than 3,000,000 tons of alfalfa. "Some states that are ahead of Nebraska in the dairy industry produce very little alfalfa and are forced to have this feed shipped in," he said.

Government statistics for last year show that the state had 27,785 milch cows, an increase of more than 6,000 over the preceding year. This year, Mr. Palm says, the increase will be even greater.

The Nebraska Dairymen's Association has been conducting an educational campaign to promote the uses of milk and milk products. Another campaign among dairymen and farmers is being conducted by the association to induce them to kill off the nonproducing milch cows and replace them with pure-bred stock. Every effort is being done to replace the scrub cow with better grades.

#### INTRODUCTION OF ALFALFA INTO NEBRASKA.

Dr. C. E. Bessey, in writing concerning this plant, in 1890, remarked: "It is said the Greeks and Romans grew it, and that to these countries it was brought from Persia, and possibly from regions still farther east. Its cultivation certainly dates back two thousand or twenty-five hundred years."

It is claimed that S. P. Parker, of Curtis, Frontier County, grew alfalfa in 1876; in 1878 it was tried in Harlan County by J. C. Mitchell; J. P. Nead of Riverton grew it in 1882; a field was tried at Guide Rock, Nebraska, in 1877. Martin Slatery of Shelton, Buffalo County, tried it in 1887, and H. D. Watson on his ranch found twenty acres growing there when he took charge in 1889, so while not the first, Hall County was among the pioneer counties in introducing alfalfa into Nebraska.

#### ALFALFA IN NEBRASKA

By R. P. Crawford, of the Nebraska Farmer

Alfalfa is one of Nebraska's main crops, and with the exception of wheat, corn, oats, and wild hay, was credited with the greatest acreage of any crop in 1918. Reports from the State Board of Agriculture indicated 1,164,941 acres devoted to this crop in 1918 with a yield of 2,527,834 tons. The acreage in 1919 increased to 1,180,234 with a production of 3,214,999.1 tons. This shows an increase of 687,165 tons in production for one year. Alfalfa gives the heaviest yield per acre of any hay crop grown in Nebraska.

Probably the last ten years have witnessed the greatest development in alfalfa growing in the state. In 1908 the total acreage was only a little more than a half million acres. Now there is hardly a county in the state that does not have an important acreage devoted to this crop. Through the west-central section of Nebraska there is a district that is more famed for its alfalfa than almost any other section. Last year one man sold his crop in the field, stacked but not hauled away, for \$70 an acre. This is above the average and the prices received last year were unusual, but it nevertheless gives some idea of the money that lies in the growing of this crop. Another farmer, a sheep man, estimates that during normal years he can make \$24 an acre net profit. That is figuring alfalfa at only \$8 a ton.

While alfalfa has attained its greatest popularity in the western half of the state, it is well suited to nearly every section and a good majority of the farms have at least some acreage devoted to it. It is easily grown and the fact that it comes up year after year makes it a crop to be managed with the minimum of care. Alfalfa also plays an important part as a soil builder. It belongs to a legume family and growing it will enrich the soil. Each acre of alfalfa adds over twice as much nitrogen to the soil as the average acre of red clover. Alfalfa because of its long root growth will also withstand dry weather much more readily than other crops.

Other Hay Crops. In 1918 there were 2,587,678 acres devoted to wild hay and 2,771,234 acres in 1919. During the last ten years there has been a gradual tendency, however, to devote more acres to cultivated crops, this being especially true with the development of the newer districts of the state. In 1918 there were 122,162 acres of clover, 154,472 acres of timothy, and 101,441 acres of timothy and clover mixed. In 1919 the acreage was as follows: Clover, 60,213; timothy, 46,724; timothy and clover mixed, 185,233. The yield of wild hay is far less than the yield of alfalfa. In 1918 the yield of wild hay per acre was .88 tons, while alfalfa yielded 2.1 tons, this being a low-yielding year for both crops, but in 1919 wild hay averaged 1.02 tons and alfalfa 2.7 tons. The average yield of alfalfa is close to 3 tons per acre, while the average yield of wild hay is approximately 1 ton.

#### THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY

By Esther S. Anderson, Department of Geography, The University of Nebraska

Conditions Favorable. Nebraska is one of the pioneer states in the production of beet sugar. The climate and the soils of the western counties are especially suited for growing beets high in sugar content. The long summer days with abundance of sunshine and the cool nights are favorable conditions. The beet fields are irrigated during the growing season but little water is required later when the plants are manufacturing and storing sugar.

Where Beets Are Grown. The principal beet-growing areas are in the North Platte, Platte, Lodgepole, and Republican valleys on very fine sandy loam and fine sandy loam soils. The land is comparatively smooth, well drained, and easy to till.

Sugar Factories. The first successful beet sugar factory in the United States was erected in Alvarado, California, in 1870. The second, with a capacity of 350 tons of beets per day, was built in Grand Island in 1890 by the Oxnard Brothers. This plant, which has run most campaigns since building, was remodeled and enlarged last year. A factory with a capacity of 400 tons per day was built at

Norfolk, in 1894. It operated with indifferent success for a few years and was finally moved to Lamar, Colorado. A plant constructed at Ames, Nebraska, several years ago, operated a few campaigns and was moved to Scottsbluff, where in 1910 it was built into a large modern plant with a capacity of 1,900 or more tons per day. In 1916 a factory, capacity about 1,200 tons, was erected at Gering, and the fourth plant now operating in the state was established at Bayard in 1917.

It has been found that conditions for the beet sugar industry are less favorable in the east-central part of the state than in the western part. The sugar content is lower and it is not possible to organize and conduct the labor activities so readily because the people are more accustomed to the growing of corn, wheat, and alfalfa; hence, the first factories built in Nebraska were moved to the more advantageous places.

**Shipment of Beets.** Beet raising has rapidly increased since the development was started in the North Platte Valley. Beets grown in the Republican and Lodgepole valleys are shipped to the Grand Island plant and to factories in Colorado. The Grand Island plant receives beets also from the Platte and lower part of the North Platte Valley. Most beets grown in the North Platte Valley are milled at the Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard plants. Some Wyoming beets are shipped to these factories.

This story of the sugar beet is set out in an interesting way in a volume of biographical and historical memoirs of Nebraska, published in 1890, wherein Professor Lassen treated the sugar beet industry as follows:

Margraff demonstrated 140 years ago that there was sugar in the beets; and the total product of France and Germany in the last half century alone demonstrated its value. The reflecting reader who sees nothing in Napoleon save that of the great military leader, has failed to note the early, substantial encouragement that he gave the beet sugar industry in France, which in turn gave it greater impetus and success in Germany, albeit there were three factories in Germany as early as 1805, but the warlike situation was not favorable for such an enterprise. Very soon, however, Napoleon issued his famous decrees shutting out all English goods and material, which, if the effect was to raise the price of sugar, ruined the French wine trade and compelled the French to look for ways and means to dispose profitably of their grape crops and obtain a supply of sugar. In 1810 he gave two experimenters \$28,000 for discovering grape sugar; the amount to be expended in the erection of factories. Soon after this Napoleon gave \$40,000 to twelve grape sugar factories by way of bounty or special encouragement. In 1811 he decreed that 79,000 acres should be planted to beets, and he established six experimental stations to give instruction in the beet sugar industry, ordering that all farmers who desired attend lectures given there might do so free of charge, and the sum of \$200,000 was set apart to pay the expense. In 1812 he established four special beet-root sugar schools, directing that 100 students be attached thereto. In addition and by way of special encouragement, he ordered to be granted 500 licenses for beet sugar production, to run to proprietors of factories and to manufacturers of sugar from beets; and those who made a ton of raw sugar were to be exempt from tax on their product for four years. In 1812 he directed the erection of four imperial beet sugar factories to produce 2,100 tons. During this time Germany was not idle. The king of Prussia gave Archard, a pupil of Margraff, a good sum of money to establish a school or factory for instruction in beet sugar production, and from this school Russia drew her prac-

tical knowledge of the work, and the Czar gave \$39,000 and exempted all land of those who built beet sugar factories from tax. At least one great discoverer and experimenter in this field, in Germany and France, was offered \$100,000 if he would declare that his supposed discovery was a failure, but it did not attract him. The Napoleonic wars destroyed this great industry in Russia, Germany, and finally in France—after Napoleon had appropriated millions of dollars to give it a substantial footing. It did not rise again in France until 1825-26, nor in Germany until 1835. From that time forward both France and Germany, as well as Russia, Austria and Belgium, have put forth great efforts to extend the production of beet sugar, both by bounties and by drawbacks on exported sugar from beets, as well as a tariff on imported sugar. The stimulants offered resulted in such a measure of success in France, that in 1839, a special tax of 15 francs on every 220 pounds of raw sugar was imposed. This operated harshly, and the product fell off over one-half. New laws more liberal were passed from time to time, a tax going hand in hand generally with bounties and drawbacks, until, in 1878, France collected as tax, on sugar made in that country, upward of \$22,000,000. This, in brief, is only a part of the early history of beet sugar production in France; and Germany as a matter of economic policy, followed in swift pursuit. Such was the development of the industry that in 1883-84 there were 2,000,000 acres devoted to the production of the sugar beet in France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Poland, Belgium, and Holland; and the aggregate beet sugar product, leaving out Russia and Holland, was 1,485,000 tons with 1,242 factories. At that time Germany had outstripped her great rival, France, because of her liberality and superior knowledge of the subject. So great was the quantity of beet sugar produced in 1883, that there was a temporary glut of it in the English market, inducing some farmers to ask a change in the laws, while others resorted to less acreage to reduce the surplus; meantime our people are paying from 6 to 9 cents for their sugar, entailing an expense to our population annually of over \$75,000,000, the great part of the raw material of which goes abroad for refineries from Cuba; 240,000,000 of pounds imported by us in 1887 coming from England, Germany, France, Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. Consul-General Walker says on the point, "It is to be noted that the sugar production of Germany has been stimulated by heavy protective duties and by bounties on export sugar, and the French tariff act of 1884 was a step toward adopting the policy which her great rival, Germany, had found so effective.

To show the effect of these laws, it seems only necessary to say that while the acreage in beets in Germany, in 1870, was 282,500, in 1883 it was 352,100, and tons of sugar produced in 1879 were 2,850,000, while in 1883 it was 4,205,000 tons.

#### THE POTATO INDUSTRY

By R. F. Howard, Horticulturist, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska ranks about tenth among the large potato producing states. Over 140,000 acres of potatoes were grown in the state in 1917, representing a total yield of over 12,000,000 bushels. A large proportion of the yield is from western counties, including Scotts Bluff, Box Butte, Sheridan, Dawes, Kimball, Banner, Sioux, and Brown. Approximately 2,000,000 bushels are grown with irrigation in Scotts

Bluff, Morrill, Sioux, and Kimball counties. Potatoes are raised on most farms and ranches of the state.

The Nebraska Potato Improvement Association promotes the potato industry in Nebraska along the lines of production, transportation, and utilization of potatoes. Through it we may expect to see the best varieties and strains of seed potatoes grown and disseminated. It will aid in establishing and maintaining the proper cultural practices and crop rotations in relation to soil fertility and yield.

There are almost unlimited possibilities for extending the potato industry in western Nebraska. Over half of the land suitable for potato production is still in native sod. A three or four-year crop rotation with potatoes as one of the crops makes it possible to grow potatoes indefinitely. It has been demonstrated that the potato soils of this region will grow this crop indefinitely without addition of artificial fertilizers provided a proper rotation of crops is used.

**Growing Seed Potatoes.** The production of high quality seed potatoes in western Nebraska is a possibility as yet only partially realized. An effort should be made to supply the southern states with seed from this region. Potatoes grown in the central and southern states under ordinary methods of cultivation should not be used as seed the following year. It is generally known that potatoes produced in a cool climate will give a heavier yield when used as seed than potatoes produced under warmer conditions. A comparison of the yielding qualities has been made the past two years of seed produced under dry land conditions of western Nebraska with seed from various other states, including Maine, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. These tests indicate that Nebraska seed will yield as well or better than seed produced in the other northern states.

Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana need each year approximately 2,000,000 bushels of seed potatoes.

#### HORTICULTURAL RESOURCES

By R. F. Howard, Horticulturist, The University of Nebraska

It was demonstrated early in the history of the state that Nebraska could grow fruit of many kinds. There are over two million apple trees now in the orchards of the state, and cherries, plums, grapes, pears, and strawberries are grown in abundance. The greater part of the commercial plantings are in the eastern half of the state; several commercial orchards and hundreds of home orchards, however, may be found in many places in western Nebraska, especially along the Platte and other valleys.

The deep loess soil formation in the eastern part of the state is especially well adapted to the production of fruit. This soil possesses the elements of fertility to a great depth. It also has a structure that permits the roots of the trees to penetrate it to a depth, making it an ideal soil on which to grow trees of many kinds, especially fruit trees, and vineyards. Large commercial plantings are now being developed there. The natural advantages for growing fruit of superior quality in this region together with the moderate price of the land, make it probable that this will develop into one of the most important fruit growing sections in the middle west.



One of the chief advantages in growing fruit in this section is to be found in the fact that there will always be a market within a radius of a few hundred miles.

Nurseries. There are over forty nurseries in the state, growing fruit trees, shade trees, ornamentals and other plants. Several of these nurseries are doing a large volume of business, shipping their goods to many other states.

Vegetables of many kinds are grown in every county of the state. The home garden is an important part of practically every farm producing not only fresh vegetables for the growing season but sufficient for canned, dried and stored vegetables for the entire year as well.

The city home gardens constitute in the aggregate an important part in the total garden production of the state. The Junior Division of the Extension Service of the University has forty-one towns doing organized garden work. There are 2,468 boys and girls enrolled.

Commercial Trucking is highly developed in several parts of the state, especially in the vicinities of Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, Hastings, Nebraska City, Grand Island, Fremont and South Sioux City.

#### DRY FARMING

By C. S. Hawk, Member, State Board of Agriculture

The western part of the state is known as the sub-humid area because of its comparatively low rainfall. There are several kinds of soil in this part of the state, some of which are suitable for farming, and others which are better suited for grazing.

Failure and Success. The early settlers did not distinguish between the soils, neither did they understand that they had come to a country where the amount of rainfall is a controlling factor in agriculture. Many of them used crops and methods of cultivation which were suited only to humid areas. There were failures for a number of years, except for years with heavy rainfall. Finally, after much practical experience and experimentation by state and federal departments, it was found that crops could be grown successfully in much of the western part of the state, but that it required technical knowledge regarding the soils and cultural methods. Seeds from sub-humid areas were introduced and large yields of wheat, oats, rye, corn, and potatoes have been produced.

Much of western Nebraska outside the irrigated areas is well suited to the so-called dry farming. One of the best areas is on Dalton Table where the land has been successfully cultivated for a number of years. All told, dry farming is an important factor in the agricultural development of Nebraska. Much of the land formerly grazed has come under extensive cultivation by using methods which conserve the soil moisture and by growing drouth resistant crops. With these practices for the last ten or twelve years northwestern Nebraska has continued to produce good yields of the hardy varieties of small grain, corn, and potatoes.

#### IRRIGATION IN NEBRASKA

By G. E. Johnson, State Engineer

Irrigation is practiced quite generally and successfully in the western part of Nebraska, where the rainfall is lowest. Much of the irrigation is from canals, but

part is from wells. About 450,000 acres are covered by irrigation systems and much of this is irrigated from canals. Much of this is in the North Platte Valley, yet there are successful irrigation enterprises in the Lodgepole, South Platte, Republican, Frenchman, Pumpkin Creek, Niobrara, Hat Creek, White River, and other valleys. The total mileage of canals built in the state is about 2,400 at a cost of more than \$11,000,000.

The North Platte is the largest project. Its storage reservoir, known as the Pathfinder, is located 43 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. This reservoir holds more than one million acre feet of flood water which when released, flows about 150 miles on the bed of the Platte to the Whalen Diversion Dam where it is diverted to each side of the valley and finally carried to the land to be irrigated. The North Side Canal carries flood water to Lake Alice and Lake Minatare reservoirs of Scotts Bluff County. The north and south side government projects combined have an irrigable area of 252,000 acres, of which about 150,000 acres are irrigated this year. The Inter-State or North Side Project covers 129,270 acres of bench land between Whalen, Wyoming, and the divide between Red Willow and Indian creeks in Nebraska. The south side or Fort Laramie part of the project will cover about 48,000 acres in Nebraska when completed. The Inter-State Canal has a capacity of 1,400 second feet at the headgate. This is reduced several miles eastward to 1,200 second feet and finally to 800 second feet. Lake Alice has a capacity of 14,000 acre feet and Lake Minatare of 67,000 acre feet. Water from these large reservoirs and the river is carried through canals and laterals to the fields and crops.

There are other large Platte River projects in Nebraska. Some of the larger ones are the Tri-State, Gering, Central, Chimney Rock, Belmont, Brown's Creek, and the Beerline Canal, which receive water from the government under contract and from the normal flow of the river. These just named have a combined capacity of considerably more than 100,000 acres. There are quite large projects in other valleys.

The irrigation waters of Nebraska have been carefully surveyed by state and federal departments. They are under the administration of the State Board of Irrigation, Highways and Drainage. Plans are under way to construct additional reservoirs to hold flood waters and to increase the efficiency of water used in irrigation.

**Irrigation Farming.** The irrigation districts produce vast quantities of alfalfa, oats, wheat, potatoes, beets, corn, vegetables, and fruit. The country is nearly all successfully farmed and well improved. It brings good returns to the land owner and to the renter. Land values range between \$100 and \$500 or more per acre.

#### THE BEEF-CATTLE INDUSTRY

By Howard Grandich, Professor of Animal Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Nebraska has high rank in every branch of the beef industry, whether it be cattle raising, breeding, feeding, or slaughtering. The industry is supported by extensive grazing areas, fattening feeds, favorable climate, and good water supplies coming from springs, streams, and thousands of wells. Not much shelter is used except windbreaks. The usual absence of winter rains insures comparatively dry under-

footing. The industry has grown to a point where the state has 2,374,762 beef cattle (1918).

**Cattle Ranches.** Much of west-central and western Nebraska is a native prairie which supports successful grazing. The best developed cattle ranches are in the Sandhill Region, yet there are many in the dry farming areas to the west. As a whole, these ranches are large and well managed, some of them having thousands of acres and most of them fenced, and containing both pasture and hay land. In many places the pastures are divided between summer and winter ranges. Small tracts of land are given over to grains, potatoes, and vegetables for ranch use.

Nearly all the ranches have well-bred cattle, prevailing breeds being the Herefords and Shorthorns. Pure bred sires have been used for many generations and most animals are now of good quality.

**Ranch Products.** The main product of the cattle country is steers. These are mainly shipped as two and three-year-olds. The calf crop is usually dropped in the early spring. The cows and calves remain together until weaning time. No feed other than grass is required during summer. The calves are branded in the summer and weaned and dehorned in the fall. They are kept in corrals adjacent to the ranch buildings during the winter and are sometimes fed a small amount of cottonseed cake and alfalfa in addition to the native hay. The animals graze upon the winter range which is land that has not been pastured the preceding summer. The hay is fed during storms and when the ground is covered with snow.

After the first winter the calves are permitted to rustle for themselves, receiving no additional feed, except hay, until they are marketed at the age of about three years. Two-year-olds weigh 800 to 900 pounds and three-year-olds 1,100 to 1,200. The heavy steers are sold direct to the packers for beef purposes and the lighter ones are sold as feeders.

The cows and bulls are shipped to market after a few years of use for breeding purposes. Though most of the cattle of the ranch country are raised in Nebraska, many animals are shipped in from other states and finished on the ranches and in the feed lots of the state.

**Cattle Raising on Farms.** The eastern and southeastern parts of Nebraska are devoted principally to farming. Cattle raised on these farms are sold either as feeders or finished for market. In many places animals serve for both beef production and dairy purposes. There is not so much specialization in beef production here as in the ranch country. The dual purpose type of cattle is also found in the dry farming and irrigated areas of the western parts of the state.

**Feeding for Market.** The agricultural sections of the state produce an abundance of finishing feeds, such as corn, alfalfa, and beet pulp. Many farmers engaged in cattle feeding finish their homegrown animals for market. A specialized form of the industry is carried on in large feed yards, such as those at Central City and Scottsbluff, where thousands of animals are handled. Some of the feeder steers come from nearby farms, but most of them are shipped in from the range country.

**Cattle Breeding.** Nebraska is an important cattle-breeding state. Most of the breeders are in the eastern and southern parts of the state. The Mousel Brothers of Cambridge carry a breeding herd of 500 registered Herefords. Registered animals of these and other breeders are sold at advertised sales and used locally or shipped throughout the state, or to other states. Many breeding animals are imported.

**Cattle Market.** Some of the best animals of the ranches are shipped directly to

market. Others are finished in feed lots and marketed in Omaha and other places for slaughter. The Omaha market is one of the largest in the United States, with its big slaughter houses and packing plants. The records show that the Omaha market received 1,993,366 head of cattle during 1918, of which 1,150,635 were from Nebraska. In 1919 this market received 1,975,236 cattle of which 1,066,204 were from Nebraska. During the last thirty-five years 30,481,187 head of cattle have been shipped to the Omaha market.

#### THE SWINE INDUSTRY

By Sam McKelvie, Clay Center, Nebraska

Corn and hogs are closely related in production and partly owing to this fact Nebraska is now the second greatest swine producing state in proportion to its population, being second to Iowa. Though corn has always played a very large part in feeding, a second factor, alfalfa, holds an important place in the hog industry of Nebraska.

The report of the State Board of Agriculture shows that there were 1,680,460 hogs in the state in 1910. By 1918 this number had jumped to 2,038,460. The total value of hogs in 1910 was \$18,084,400, while in 1918 it was \$61,147,080.

From my personal experience, dating back to the '70s, I regard swine production in Nebraska one of the most profitable, if not the most profitable, of our live stock pursuits.

Breeds. The main breeds of hogs raised in Nebraska are the Duroc Jersey, Poland China, Chester White and Hampshire. Although the hog business is primarily a market venture, there is a great deal of pure-bred stock, and practically every community has its breeders. Hogs might be called a universal crop in Nebraska, since practically every county raises its share. Most animals are found in the areas growing most alfalfa and corn.

Quick Returns. While both cattle and hogs conserve the fertility of the soil, one gets quicker returns from the hog than from the steer. One calf is produced by each cow annually and usually has to be kept until about two years old before marketing, while a sow will produce a litter in the spring that with careful treatment can be marketed before the snow flies, and even a second litter within the same year. I would say frankly that I would not think of trying to operate a Nebraska farm profitably without growing hogs thereon.

Market. Omaha, with railroad lines radiating out into every section of the state furnishes a fine market for hogs. The Omaha yards received 3,429,533 hogs in 1918 and received 67,500,753 during the 35-year period from 1884 to 1918 inclusive. In 1919 these yards received 3,179,116 hogs, of which number 2,274,936 were from Nebraska. Another development is the motor truck method of hauling hogs to markets which in eastern Nebraska is becoming more common. Some Nebraska hogs are shipped to Denver, St. Joseph, Kansas City, and Sioux City.

#### THE SHEEP INDUSTRY

By J. D. Whitmore, President of the Valley Stock Yards Company

Sheep raising is increasing in Nebraska. Many farmers and ranchmen carry a few animals to clean up roughage. Sheep raising has great importance in the states

to the west and northwest of Nebraska, from which many animals are shipped into this state for feeding, and to market. Much of the breeding stock of the sheep-growing states is produced in Nebraska.

The Agricultural Reports show that there were 278,821 sheep on farms and ranches and 108,000 sheep were owned for breeding purposes in 1918. Larger numbers than these were fed in the state. It is not possible from data at hand to give the total sheep population of Nebraska.

**Breeding.** There are a few places in the state where breeding sheep are raised commercially. Mr. Robert Taylor of Abbott (near Grand Island), the largest operator, is among the pioneers. He sells hundreds of lambs and sheep of both sexes to western range sheepmen annually. Several others operate in the same manner in different localities, but on a smaller scale.

**Sheep Feeding.** This is of two kinds—the feeding or fattening for market and feeding-in-transit. The sheep grown in the northwestern states must be fed on the way to market and many of them are finished for market on Nebraska's prairie hay, and other feeds. Our feeds are between the grazing country and the big markets. This gives to the state a great advantage in the sheep industry. Much feeding is done on a commercial basis, yet there is a noticeable tendency for the land owners to engage in the sheep-feeding business. This enables farmers to market farm products on their land, thus obtaining large quantities of manure and affording winter work. This feeding is principally in the districts of intensified farming, and particularly in the irrigated sections, where much alfalfa is grown.

Largest commercial feeding of sheep is in the vicinity of Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard, where many thousands of animals are fed. Two years ago more than 300,000 sheep were fed within a short radius of Scottsbluff. The beet sugar companies and private parties engage in feeding. Some of the largest feed yards of the United States are at Shelton, in an alfalfa and corn belt.

Most sheep fed in Nebraska are from west and northwest on feeding-in-transit billing, and when finished, shipped to market at a small additional cost for freight over the straight point-of-origin to final destination rate.

**Transient Feeding.** Sheep fattened on the western ranges are shipped direct to market for killers, and many of them pass through Nebraska on the Union Pacific, Burlington, and Northwestern railroads. "The regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture provide that live stock of any kind shall not be confined for a period longer than twenty-eight consecutive hours without unloading same in a humane manner into properly equipped pens for rest, water, and feeding for a period of at least five consecutive hours unless prevented by storm or by other accidental or unavoidable causes which cannot be anticipated or avoided by the exercise of due diligence and foresight, except, however, upon the written request of the owner or persons in custody of any particular shipment, the time of confinement may be extended to thirty-six hours.

To comply with these regulations as well as to care for the best interests of the shippers, the railroads have established feed yards along their lines—the Union Pacific at Sidney, North Platte, Grand Island, Fremont, and Valley; the Burlington at Alliance, Aurora, McCook, Hastings, and Burnham; the Northwestern at Long Pine and Fremont. Millions of sheep and other stock are fed at these feed yards annually on their way to the Chicago and Missouri River markets, as well as to feed lots.

Many successful stockmen find that it does not pay to keep stock off feed too long, and therefore feed oftener than is required by law. Nearly all of them feed long enough at the last feeding-in-transit point to get back part of the shrink caused by shipment, and put the sheep on the market in a much better condition, thereby obtaining better weights and higher prices.

**Markets.** The big Nebraska market is at Omaha. The yards here received 3,385,696 sheep in 1918 and have received 51,330,802 sheep for the 35-year period ending with the year 1918. In 1919, 3,789,188 sheep were received, of which 870,330 were from Nebraska. Part of the wool clipped on the ranches and at the feed yards goes to Omaha warehouses. The chief product of the animals at the packing houses is mutton.

#### THE HORSE INDUSTRY

By William Thomas Bradstreet, President of the Grand Island Horse Market

While horse raising in Nebraska is not a leading industry, there are numerous breeders of pure-bred stock and a large number of farmers who make a practice of raising a few horses as a side line. The auto, truck, and tractor have reduced the demand for horses in most places, yet few farms in the state have been able, with motor power, to do away with horses altogether.

Those who find the horse business a profitable one generally make a practice of keeping a few mares on the place for general work and in addition raise a few colts per year. There usually is a good market for horses and any surplus can be disposed of to neighbors or at sales with little trouble. Just now few horse colts are raised. The mule is preferred and mule colts are increasing at the expense of the horse.

**Number of Horses.** The report of the State Board of Agriculture showed 910,079 horses and 102,192 mules in the state in 1918. There were 924,756 horses in 1912, showing that the decrease from the maximum number has been comparatively slight. But as compared with 1910 and previous years, there is today an increase in total number of horses. The mule population is increasing. Many horses are shipped in from western states for use on Nebraska farms. More horses are shipped out, however, than are shipped into the state.

**Horses on Ranches.** The large cattle ranches of the central and western counties require a good many horses for riding and hay-making. Formerly they were used for driving, but the auto has displaced the horse at most places for this purpose. Evidently, the ranches will continue to need horses.

**Horses on Farms.** Though motor power has come into general use in Nebraska and much of the plowing, harvesting, and hauling is done with machinery pulled or driven by this power, there remain a number of places where horses are the more dependable. We believe, on this account, that it will be many years before horses disappear from Nebraska farms because they are better suited than tractors and trucks on many farms located on many kinds of soils.

**Race Horses.** The state has produced a number of animals that have made good records, particularly in trotting and pacing. It seems, however, that the number of race horses raised in Nebraska is decreasing.

**Horse Markets.** There are a number of local sales places in the state and two large general horse markets. These markets are at Grand Island and Omaha.

Horses reach these markets from Nebraska and several other states. They are

brought in generally from the northwest, from as far as California, and shipped to the eastern and southern states as well as to closer points. At times more than twenty states are represented by buyers at these sales which are held twice a week in the winter time and less frequently in the summer time.

The barns at South Omaha and Grand Island are well equipped for handling horses. The animals are received and shaped up for sale. They are classed as broke and unbroke animals. Those sold as "broke" are tested for wind and work and are sorted and graded as to age, size, and soundness. The animals are sold in the stall or from the pen, but more generally from the ring on auction day. The principal grades are pony, southern, farm chunk, draft, and heavy draft. There are few calls for fancy saddle horses, and the roadster is nearly a thing of the past.

**Horse Feeding.** Many farmers feed their horses for sale. Companies and individuals fatten horses particularly in the vicinity of the big markets. The animals are fed like cattle. The draft and heavy draft animals are the ones usually handled. The feeding period is thirty to ninety days, averaging about sixty days with a gain of about three pounds per day. Corn, oats, alfalfa and bran are used.

#### THE POULTRY INDUSTRY

By F. E. Mussehl, Professor of Poultry Husbandry, The University of Nebraska

Poultry raising is an important branch of agriculture in Nebraska. It includes chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and guinea fowls. These contribute annually more than \$50,000,000 to the state's wealth, principally from poultry and eggs. Chickens lead in the value of production. Several varieties are grown, such as the Rocks, Wyandottes, Reds, Coehins, Brahmas, and Leghorns. There is considerable specialization to meet the market conditions, and poultry breeding is carried on generally throughout the state.

**Poultry Population.** The poultry population of Nebraska is about twelve million birds. Hamilton County leads with one-third million birds. There are about twenty-one thousand incubators and brooders in the state, and it is estimated that 170,000 people raise chickens on farms and ranches or in the back yards of towns and cities. Much of the poultry and many of the eggs are used by the producers or sold on local markets but large quantities become commercial.

**Conditions Favorable.** Nebraska is very well adapted to poultry raising because of its favorable climate as shown by the sub-humid atmosphere, long periods of sunshine, and because of the abundance of feed and a ready market. There is comparatively little trouble with poultry diseases and destructive animals. Chickens and one or more forms of other poultry are grown on practically all ranches and farms of the state. The industry is specialized at various points for raising breeding stock and exhibition stock.

**Poultry Associations and Exhibits.** There are a number of poultry associations in the state, and the poultry department of The University of Nebraska is furthering the industry, both as to instruction in the Agricultural College and as a part of the extensive work done throughout the state. Poultry exhibits are made at all county fairs and a large and complete exhibit is made each year at the State Fair.

**Poultry Feeding.** Poultry is a large item in the meat supply of most homes in the state. Farmers sell grown birds to town folk and to large milk feeding plants

located in about twenty towns and cities. The birds in the feeding plants, as at Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Falls City, Crete, and Grand Island, are finished within about two weeks on mashed feed. The gain is rapid; the birds now in good condition are killed and packed for shipment to the eastern cities or to foreign countries. Many of these large birds go for roasts.

**Baby Chicks.** The production of baby chicks in hatcheries especially developed for this purpose has become an industry in itself. The manufacture of incubators, brooders, trap nests, and similar appliances has importance. These efficient labor-saving devices aid in conserving the poultry industry which is rapidly extending in importance and as an adjunct to the general agricultural development.

#### BEES IN NEBRASKA

By Frank G. Odell

(Mr. Odell, formerly an expert bee keeper of Nebraska, has a national reputation as an authority on this subject.)

Bee keeping has been well established in Nebraska since pioneer days. In recent years specialization of this industry has grown considerably in the state with good results. Numerous beekeepers near the cities maintain profitable apiaries. In the Platte Valley, particularly in the alfalfa growing districts in the western part of the state, bees are very profitable and the honey yield is uniformly satisfactory. The state reports show 25,107 stands of bees in Nebraska in 1919.

The principal plants which produce a marketable quality of honey, in the order of their importance are: Alfalfa, white and alsike clover, sweet clover, and hearts-ease, the latter plant yielding the principal autumn crop.



## CHAPTER XIV

### MANUFACTURING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

NEBRASKA FACTORIES—MANUFACTURERS OF NEBRASKA (FRANK I. RINGER)—RAILROADS AND INTERURBAN COMMUNICATION (H. G. TAYLOR)—THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY (R. E. MATTISON)—MINERAL RESOURCES (G. E. CONDRA)—SAND, COAL, OIL, CLAY, CEMENT AND POTASH (G. E. CONDRA).

#### NEBRASKA FACTORIES

Without taking the space to attempt a thorough roster of Nebraska's many manufacturing enterprises, it is desired to call attention to a few here and there, in order to impress upon the reader the diversity of Nebraska's resources, not altogether dependent upon agriculture. Broom factories have been established in numerous Nebraska towns, notably Omaha, Lincoln, Red Cloud, Burwell, Deshler, Bloomington, Seward, and others. Many Nebraska bakeries have branched into the manufacture of ice cream and various products. Nebraska has several factories now devoted to manufacture of clothing and shoes. Over seventy towns in the state have cement block manufactories, and some of these towns are hardly more than villages. Exeter has a factory for the manufacture of metal tags, the product of which has become a nationally advertised article. Harness shops and cigar factories are very common throughout the state. Over twenty-five granite and monument works in the state are turning out this finished product. In support of the statement that the foregoing does not even pretend to be a roster of Nebraska manufactured articles, but simply an indicative list of the scope, extent and diversity of the same, can be cited the fact that recently a contest was conducted in Grand Island, the third city of the state, with a population according to 1920 census of approximately 14,000, to ascertain the number of articles manufactured in that city, and the number finally determined upon was 353. When this fact is considered with the reasonable presumption that the other cities of the same class, and within a few thousand of the same population, such as Hastings, Fremont, North Platte, Beatrice, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, York, Fairbury, Nebraska City, Falls City and their sister cities add their number, it is promising for the future manufacturing development of Nebraska.

The best posted authority on manufacturing conditions in recent years was Hon. Frank I. Ringer, of Lincoln, who died in 1920, after having spent many years contributing to the upbuilding of the success of the Nebraska Manufacturers' Association and manufacturing conditions generally in Nebraska.

## MANUFACTURERS OF NEBRASKA

By Frank I. Ringer, Commissioner, Nebraska Manufacturers' Association

Every person in Nebraska knows that this state is one of the leading agricultural states of the Union, that in wealth per capita she is one of the first and that her public school system is second to none. Yet how little is known of the manufacturers.

How many people know that the annual output of the state's factories is valued at more than a half billion? Or that shoe strings, suspenders, and spark plugs are made in Omaha, index tags at Exeter, refrigerators minus corners at Fremont, dandelion rakes at Kearney, butter tubs at Ralston, rubber collars at Lincoln and chewing gum at Fairbury?

But these are only a few of the more unusual industries. Besides these we have some 4,000 factories engaged in a wide variety of industries and utilizing a large proportion of the raw materials produced within the state.

The four sugar factories located at Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Gering, and Bayard will this year convert the beets from more than 50,000 acres of Nebraska's finest land into 1,700,000 sacks of sugar, valued at \$20,000,000.

One of the valuable by-products from these factories is the potash which is obtained by evaporating the water used in washing the beets during the sugar season. Thousands of cattle and sheep are fattened annually on the by-products—beet tops, pulp, and molasses.

We boast of Omaha as being the largest dairy product market in the world and Lincoln claims one of the world's largest creameries, owned and operated by Nebraskans, the Beatrice Creamery Company. In these huge plants and the smaller plants scattered over the state, the cream and milk from Nebraska's dairy herds is made into butter, cheese, and condensed milk, the value of which is greater than the combined wool and mutton output of any state in the Union.

A large part of our enormous wheat crop never leaves the state except in the form of flour, breakfast foods, crackers, macaroni, etc. Practically every town has its own flour mill, ranging in size from the small one-man mill to some of the largest and most up-to-date plants west of the Mississippi River. From these mills, besides supplying the home demand, flour is shipped to all parts of the world.

Large quantities of wheat are also used to supply the demand of such firms as the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company, the Iten Biscuit Company, the Skinner Manufacturing Company, and the Uncle Sam Breakfast Food Company of Omaha, the Gooch Milling Company of Lincoln, and the multitude of smaller concerns over the state. The Iten Biscuit Company operates the largest exclusive cracker factory west of Chicago, their daily output of crackers exceeding six carloads. The Skinner Manufacturing Company has long since proven that Nebraska and not Italy is the home of macaroni and is now known as the largest macaroni factory in the world, and the product of the Uncle Sam Breakfast Food Company is known across the seas.

Another important branch of the industry is alfalfa milling. There are a number of plants scattered throughout the state of which M. C. Peters Mills Company of Omaha is perhaps the largest. These mills annually produce thousands of tons of alfalfa meal, valued at over \$5,000,000, which is distributed over Nebraska and neighboring states.

As a live stock market Omaha ranks second, and as a meat market and packing center, third in the world. Seven large packing companies and a number of smaller concerns maintain plants in this city with an output during the year 1918 valued at \$288,820,787.

Candy factories, canning factories, dehydrating plants and soda water factories are thriving industries and consume enormous quantities of Nebraska grown fruits, vegetables, and sugar.

Ready-to-wear clothing is made in a dozen factories and Nebraska-made boots, shoes, and hats are known in practically every state.

Farm implements, pumps, mills, and harness are made in quantities and a ready market is found not only in Nebraska and the other states, but in Canada and South America as well. At least three manufacturers of gas engines, trucks, auto bodies, and repairs enjoy a profitable foreign trade.

Although few in number, the brass and iron foundries and sheet metal works of the state, collectively do an extensive business and ship their products over a wide area. The railroads are, perhaps, the largest consumers.

The war seriously affected producers of building material but the present building activity finds them running full blast once more and in difficulties supplying the local demand, for brick, tile, cement and structural steel. Some of the finest and largest deposits of sand and clay in the west are found in Nebraska and her people are well acquainted with the sand dredges and the brick and tile factories.

It is not long since all engraving, lithographing, binding and printing was sent out of the state. There is no further occasion to do so now, for Nebraska plants are equipped with the most modern machinery and the latest methods of production. Steel plate engraving, lithographing and book binding and publishing are now important industries.

Several well-known incubators are made in the state as at Clay Center, Lincoln, Wayne, Fremont, and Omaha, and distributed from Cape Town to Hong Kong.

Stock feeds and hog cholera serums are made in Lincoln, Ralston, Red Cloud and a half-dozen other places.

Boxes and bags for the shipping of Nebraska products are made at home and our Nebraska soldiers were sheltered by tents from their own state.

Although the activities of our many potash factories were somewhat deranged with the end of the war, they are rapidly returning to normal and will soon, as before the war, be producing sixty per cent of the potash output of the states. There are eighteen small potash plants and nine large plants in Nebraska. There is a large Portland cement plant in successful operation at Superior, Nebraska.

Nebraska has one of the largest smelting and refining plants in the United States with an output in 1918 valued at \$48,000,000.

Although there is very little broom corn raised in the state, the largest broom manufacturers in the states, the Lee Broom and Duster Company, is located at Lincoln and another huge plant is at Deshler.

The only floor tile manufactured west of Indiana is made in Lincoln.

Nebraska-made cigars find their way into practically every state and Nebraska-made toilet preparations can be found in shops on Fifth Avenue.

Although Nebraska may never equal some of her eastern sisters in the manufactures, she is only beginning. The past ten years has seen a phenomenal growth and with our unlimited production of raw material and excellent transportation

In times the coming years will bring even greater advancement in this line of development.

### COMMUNICATION AND MARKETS

#### RAILROADS AND INTERURBANS

By H. G. Taylor, State Railway Commissioner

**Mileage and Distribution.** Nebraska is comparatively well served with railroads, having 6,742 miles of main line and approximately five hundred miles of double track. This is equivalent to a mile of road for every 200 people. Unlike Iowa, the Nebraska railroads are unequally distributed geographically, due to the greater density of population in the eastern part, 72 per cent of the population being in a territory in the eastern end comprising only 29 per cent of the total square miles. In this 29 per cent territory there are 3,255 miles of road, which is almost 52 per cent of the entire state mileage. In an area comprising 42 per cent of the square miles, there are 4,392 miles, or 66 per cent of the total road, and in an area in the western end of the state comprising 58 per cent of the total square miles there are 1,472 miles of road, or less than 24 per cent. In the 29 per cent territory, the average distance from a railroad station is seven miles. In the remaining 71 per cent of the area, the average distance is fourteen miles.

**Railroad Systems.** Seven railroad systems operate in the state, namely, Chicago & Northwestern; Union Pacific; Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Missouri Pacific; Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, and the St. Joseph & Grand Island. The latter road is now a subsidiary of and operated under the Union Pacific management. The C., St. P., M. & O. has a close relationship with the C. & N. W. Other railroads have terminals in Omaha.

**New Lines.** There are territories in the state, notably in the middle-western and northwestern part, capable of great development, that are not reached by railroad. Construction of new lines and extension of existing lines has been very limited in the past ten years. The extension of the Union Pacific from O'Fallons up the valley of the North Platte to Gering and later to the Nebraska line is the longest extension constructed in recent years. When the Union Pacific acquired control of the St. J. & G. I. it built a connecting line from Gibbon to Hastings, over which it has diverted a large amount of freight traffic to and from Kansas City and the south. A Burlington cut-off recently built from the Ashland-Sioux City line of the Burlington to the main line at Chalco shortens the distance between Omaha and Sioux City.

**Tonnage and Revenue.** A hasty survey of statistics filed by the railroads with the State Railway Commission presents graphically the extent of the transportation business in Nebraska, and at the same time offers concrete evidence of the rapid development of the state. For the purpose of comparison, the figures for the years 1908 and 1916 are used. In 1908, the total revenue tons carried aggregated 17,929,314 while in 1916, the tonnage had increased to 26,521,203 tons, or over 55 per cent. The gross revenue from all sources in 1908 was \$30,639,859.00 but by 1916 it had doubled, being \$62,121,163.00. The total expense in 1908 was \$19,333,180.00 and \$37,066,118.00 in 1916, this leaving a net income in 1908 of \$11,335,814.00, which grew to \$25,356,090.00 in 1916.

**Livestock and Grain Shipment**—In 1908 the railroads forwarded 58,967 cars of livestock in the state. In 1916 they forwarded 78,158 cars, or a gain of about 33 per cent. The shipment of grain and grain products forwarded reflect the same satisfactory increase. In 1908 41,147 cars were shipped while in 1916 the number reached 52,041, or a 26 per cent increase. These figures indicate a greatly increased production of agricultural products in the nine years covered. Comparison of other commodities would disclose the same rapid progress in the development of the state's great resources.

**Passenger Traffic**—The general prosperity of the state during this period is further reflected by the statistics with reference to passenger traffic. In 1908, 8,622,627 passengers were carried in the state, paying a total revenue of \$5,978,999. In 1916, 10,460,663 passengers paid \$6,024,075. This represents a gain of twenty-one per cent in passengers carried and eighteen per cent in revenue received.

**Rate Situation**—The rate situation in the state, as elsewhere in the United States, has been somewhat chaotic since the railroads were taken over by the Federal Government. The final disposition of the roads, should, however, correct this condition. Prior to 1914, the rate structure rather favored certain specific jobbing points, but in that year the Railway Commission promulgated a schedule of class rates that served to equalize conditions. Subsequently, this was somewhat interfered with by an order of the Interstate Commerce Commission, but on the whole, the situation, as it stood at the time the United States entered the war, permitted a free and unrestricted development of any community so far as freight rates constituted a factor in that development. As industries develop, of course rates must be adjusted to meet their changing needs. The rate structure normally is sufficiently elastic to permit of growth.

From the foregoing facts, it would appear that Nebraska is well favored and that the development of the state's tremendous resources will not be seriously limited in any way by a lack of transportation.

#### STREET AND INTERURBAN RAILWAYS

There are approximately 220 miles of street and interurban railway in Nebraska, operated by seven companies. Of this mileage, 129 is operated by the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway Company and 58 by the Lincoln Traction Company. The other companies, largely interurban in their character, are as follows: Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice; Omaha & Southern Interurban Railway; Lincoln, Capital Beach & Milford; Omaha & Lincoln Railway & Light; and the Bethany Traction. The seven systems carried 88,395,179 passengers in 1916, of which 68,432,670 were passengers paying fare, the remaining being non-paying passengers. It is interesting to compare these figures with the showing for 1908. In that year the total number of passengers carried was 51,182,242, of which 50,680,199 paid fare and 501,743 were non-paying. The gross revenue in 1908 amounted to \$2,711,338.00. In 1916 it had increased to \$3,931,735.00. These figures indicate the growth of the state's two largest cities and their environs. They show that the number of passengers per mile of road has practically doubled.

The development of interurbans has been somewhat slow, but the next few years will probably witness considerable building of that kind. Lines have been

surveyed to connect the principal cities in the eastern part of the state, the Omaha, Lincoln & Beatrice being one of these.

#### THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

By R. E. Mattison, of the Lincoln Telephone Company.

There are more than two hundred and fifty thousand telephones in Nebraska or one to a little less than five persons; 290 companies maintain exchanges and 70 or 80 rural lines are built, owned, and operated by farmers. Between twenty-five million and forty million dollars of capital is invested in the telephone business. The telephone industry is important because the network of wires with their universal connection serve to weld the state into an economic and social unit whose solidity would be otherwise impossible.

The Nebraska (Bell) Telephone Company, the pioneer company, is the largest. It operates about 88,000 telephones. The Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company operates close to sixty-six thousand phones. Six other companies operate over fifteen thousand telephones. These are the Monroe, the Hamilton County, the Farmers of Dodge County, the Glenwood, the Kearney, the Platte County, the Southeast Nebraska, the Platte Valley, and the Wyoming and Nebraska companies. Dozens of companies operate several exchanges.

Of the 290 companies in the state, 218 are stock companies or mutuals which sell exchange service and are, therefore, required to make annual reports to the State Railway Commission and are under jurisdiction with respect to rates and service. The number under supervision is 230,000. To this number, at least twenty-five thousand should be added to cover those connected with the mutual and switching lines.

The better quality of telephone apparatus now in use in the state has made possible the complete linking up of practically all exchanges by toll lines that do a tremendous yearly business, and which connect not only all Nebraska towns with each other, but give a nation-wide service to every phone user.

Rural Lines—Development of rural lines has been greater and the point of saturation nearer reached in some vicinities than in the cities. Many of the original lines built in 1900 were first made up of wires strung on fence posts or on two-by-fours nailed to the tops of fence posts. Most of these have disappeared and through co-operative effort in hauling poles, digging holes for them and helping put them in place, a much higher grade of rural service is given.

#### MINERAL RESOURCES

By G. E. Condra, Director, Conservation and Soil Survey.

Nebraska has higher rank in production from these resources than is generally supposed. Among the important resources are sand, stone, clay, volcanic ash, and potash. There are small deposits of coal, and prospecting for oil and gas is being done at a number of places.

## SAND RESOURCES

The sand resources have been investigated and published by the State Geological Survey and the State Conservation and Soil Survey. A report of about two hundred pages, now out of print, was prepared by the writer and published by the Geological Survey, and Bulletin 6 of the Conservation and Soil Survey is available for distribution as long as it lasts.

The sand resources of Nebraska are widely distributed. The largest deposits, along the Platte, are worked in open pits and by dredging and pumping. Sand and gravel of good quality are produced from this.

## COAL IN NEBRASKA

The greatest drawback in Nebraska is a lack of fuel. Coal occurs plentifully in all bordering states from which it is shipped. There are a number of thin seams of coal in Nebraska in the Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous formations, but none of them are now worked. Several years ago, drifts were opened on thin beds along the Missouri and in the southern parts of Richardson and Pawnee counties to mine coal for local use. Later a small mine was operated for a short time near Peru.

Beds of low-grade lignite have been encountered in artesian wells drilled into the Dakota Formation. A thick carbonaceous shale at the base of the Pierre Formation, exposed near the mouth of the Niobrara, and at places in the Republican Valley, has been mistaken for coal. It is now generally believed that the chance to discover coal of economic importance in Nebraska is small, as shown by a study of the geological formations and by drillings.

## OIL AND GAS

The geology of the state is quite well known, except where there is a deep covering of mantle rock. Such knowledge as we have of the structure indicates that there is some chance for the discovery of oil and gas, yet the drillings in several counties have not made discoveries.

The State Conservation and Soil Survey has the duty of gathering and keeping the records of deep wells and is in close touch with prospecting. Wells were sunk the past two or three years at or near Table Rock, Red Cloud, Bassett, Stockville, in Banner County, and in South Dakota near the Sioux and Dawes County lines. Two wells completed at Table Rock extended into granite, and condemned what was thought to be the state's best structure and probable source of oil. The well near Stockville was abandoned at a depth of about two thousand five hundred feet. A string of tools was lost in the Bassett well at 2,900 feet and another location was made. Drilling at Red Cloud continued below 2,000 feet. The Prairie Oil and Gas Company, operating in Banner County with the best equipment ever used in the state, abandoned a test at a depth of 5,697 feet. Two tests were made about twenty-five miles northeast of Chadron. They encountered a small showing of gas. One of these wells was put down a number of years ago and the other was completed last year. A well-defined structure eighteen miles northeast of Chadron, and on the Nebraska side, will be tested within a year. This should contain oil and gas.

Deep wells have been drilled at Omaha, Rulo, Union, Nebraska City, Beatrice, Lincoln, Arapahoe, McCook, Lynch, Litchfield, Shelton, and Niobrara. Except those at Lincoln, Nebraska City, and Omaha the depths were not sufficient for oil and gas tests.

The western counties are known to be underlain with formations of the age of those which carry oil in Wyoming. It would seem that they might produce in Nebraska, but three conditions, somewhat unfavorable, are encountered. First, it is not possible to work the geology of the formations because of limited exposure. Second, the sands of the oil-bearing formations of Wyoming appear to thin out in the direction of Nebraska and eastern Colorado. Third, the depth in much of Nebraska will be greater than in Wyoming.

#### CLAY RESOURCES

There are a number of deposits of clay and silt in Nebraska, some suitable for the manufacture of brick and tile. Unfortunately a great deal of the best clay is thickly covered with mantle rock, making its working comparatively expensive. The silt occurs more favorably.

The clay deposits are in the Pennsylvania, Permian, Cretaceous, Tertiary, and later formations. Clays and shales, interbedded with limestone and exposed in the southeastern counties, are of Pennsylvania and Permian ages. Some of the exposures are worked, as at or near Nebraska City, Auburn, Humboldt, and Table Rock. The clays at Tekamah, Lincoln, Beatrice, Fairbury, and Steele City, are principally of Cretaceous age, occurring in the Dakota Formation. Clays of western Nebraska, belonging to the Tertiary formations, have been used for brick in a limited way. The drift deposits of the eastern counties and the loess deposits distributed so generally over the southeast half of the state are used in brick-making, but to best advantage when mixed with materials of finer texture. Brick plants operating on these deposits as at Hooper, Hastings, York, and Omaha, usually ship some clay from the Dakota Formation or from the clay-shale beds of the Pennsylvanian formations.

Brick Yards—There are thirty-six successful brick plants in Nebraska. The clay resources and strong demand for clay products warrant the expansion of brick and tile manufacture. The state produced 127,000,000 brick and tile (brick measure) in 1918, and 122,000,000 in 1919.

#### THE CEMENT INDUSTRY

Though lime was made at several places in the state during the early history, the manufacture of Portland cement was delayed until a few years ago, when a cement plant was built at Superior. It operated for a while, was abandoned one year, and rebuilt and enlarged. This plant, owned by the Nebraska Cement Company, is now in successful operation, producing high-grade cement. The capacity is to be enlarged to 2,500 barrels per day.

The cement materials of Nebraska are principally in the Pennsylvanian and Cretaceous formations. They are limestones, shales, and chalkrock. Some of the limestone members of the southeastern counties have been tested and found suitable for cement making. The Niobrara chalk and shales immediately below and above



it are the state's principal cement resources. The chalk is widely exposed along the Missouri between Knox and Cedar counties and in the Republican Valley, where it is here overlaid by Pierre shale and underlaid by Carlile shale.

Cement Plant at Superior—This large plant is located just west of Superior. The quarry is two and one-half miles south of the mill.

#### POTASH INDUSTRY

The potash industry of Nebraska grew up with the war. It advanced in three or four years to a point where the state produced about sixty per cent of the potash output in the United States. About ten million dollars was invested in plants and pipe lines. There were 300 miles of pipe lines, nine large plants operating, and eighteen small plants operating or building when the armistice was signed. The daily production was about five hundred tons of crude potash.

During the war Nebraska potash was shipped to the eastern and southeastern states and to Porto Rico and Cuba for use in fertilizers. It was without doubt an important factor in increasing agricultural production and thereby a factor in winning the war. Just what may be done at Washington to assist the potash industry cannot be foretold at this time. It will be necessary to protect the industry for a time against foreign production, and it seems that this will be done. A low tariff or subsidy would insure a permanent potash industry for the United States

## CHAPTER XV

### OUTLINE OF AUTHORITIES

It has been possible, even in a review of the extent herein undertaken, to cover only a fraction of the points of interest in Nebraska history. Also, many points herein are only treated fully enough to arouse the genuine interest of the reader, and cause him or her to desire a further research. To fill this need, it is now purposed to close this review with a short outline of authorities upon Nebraska history to which the reader may go for further reference or more extended treatment of the various points.

There is one man who has devoted many years of his time to a careful, conscientious research of Nebraska history, who is now historian of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This thorough student, Albert Watkins, a few years ago prepared an outline of authorities, which will be taken in part and herein incorporated, with a few more recent authorities added.

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HISTORY  
OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY









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## CHAPTER I

### THE SETTLEMENT OF HAMILTON COUNTY

LOCATION OF THE COUNTY—CLIMATE—EARLY RANCHES—COMING OUT WEST—  
EARLIEST SETTLERS—INDIAN DAYS—HEALTH—WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU—EDUCA-  
TIONAL—STOCKHAM MILLS—INHABITANTS, WEALTH—SHEEP, SWINE AND GAR-  
DENS—STOCK BREEDING—SMALL VEGETABLES—SMALL GRAINS—CORN—GRASSES  
—TIMBER CULTURE—FRUIT—RAINFALL—CLIMATE—TOPOGRAPHICAL AND SOIL.

Hamilton county is located in the finest agricultural section of the state, and is bounded on the east by Polk and York, on the south by Clay, on the west by Hall and on the north by Merrick counties, the Platte river flowing in a north-easterly direction, forming the boundary line between Merrick and Hamilton counties and contains three hundred and fifty-seven thousand, one hundred and twenty acres of the most fertile lands of the state, of which two hundred and thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and six acres are taxable.

It includes the territory lying between the east line of range 5, and the west line of range 8, and the south line of township 9, and the Platte river, and contains 345,045 acres of land, of unsurpassed fertility and productiveness. The surface is gently undulating, rising in long, gradual "slopes," from the valleys of the streams, to the tops of the "divides," separating them. Four principal streams have their sources in this county, and flow in an easterly direction through it. The North Blue heads in town 12, range 7, and flows in a north-eastern direction; Lincoln creek, rising in the north part of town 10, range 8, follows closely along the town line, between towns 10 and 11, to the east side of the county; Beaver creek heads in the southwest part of town 10, range 8, and also flows in nearly a direct easterly course through the entire breadth of the county; and the Blue river flows eastwardly through the southern tier of townships. The latter stream is the most important, always containing a plentiful supply of running water, and having some excellent mill sites. The soil is a rich, dark loam, from one to four feet deep, with an alluvial sub-soil extending to a depth of from ten to twenty-five feet. This sub-soil is strongly charged with comminuted silica, and is virtually identical with the celebrated loess deposit of the Nile valley. So long as this alluvial shall endure the fertility of Hamilton county's broad acres will be undiminished. Underlying this deposit is a bed of sand, which contains a never-failing supply of pure fresh water, which is easily reached by "boring," or by "driving." This water is of the greatest imaginable benefit, as it is carried to the surface by capillary attraction, and sustains vegetation through long periods of drouth, and keeps it green and vigorous under conditions which would utterly destroy it in most sections of the country.

#### CLIMATE

The climate is unsurpassed by that of any section of the country in this latitude. Spring and summer are characterized by frequent showers of rain which

seem to fall at just the right time. The summers are delightful, the warm rays of the sun being tempered by cool breezes that never fail in their coming, while the harvest season cannot be surpassed by any country. The winters are mild and dry, with but little snow, and the bright warm sunshine makes them as compared to the vigorous snow and frost bound winters of the eastern states very mild and pleasant seasons. The extreme dryness of the atmosphere makes the winters much more endurable here than in other portions of the country. Occasionally a severe storm of snow or a destructive wind visits this locality, but the history of the past records but few. No miasmatic influences prevail and malaria is comparatively unknown. The soil from two to three feet in depth and in many places much deeper, resembles a composite of artificial mould somewhat different from the prevailing natural soil, and is in all appearances like the finest garden mould, dark in color, easily worked, and eminently productive. It is not too porous, so that it will not hold water for the sustenance of vegetation, nor is it too compact or solid, holding all the water that falls upon it at the surface. It is of such a nature that the fibrous roots of trees and plants are found at a depth varying from five to twenty feet, and possesses the many good qualities which enable the husbandman to produce a variety of crops, and it never disappoints him where properly tilled.

At the periods of the county's history when the Indian tribes, not then reduced by the encroachments of a more powerful race, passed their time in the hunt and chase, or in measuring their prowess with other tribes, this was a vast unexplored region with no inhabitants but the red men, and the buffalo, deer, elk and antelope. The wild gazelle, with silvery feet of romance and song, still roamed in happy freedom over the trackless oceans of grasses, and held undisputed sway over the mighty meadows of the boundless West.

#### EARLY RANCHES

"Ranches" were established along the trail for the accommodation of freighters. The first of these ranches established in this county was that of David Millspaw, on Section 11, Town 10, Range 5, in the year 1861. The next year, 1862, John Harris and Alfred Blue established the famous "Deep Well Ranch," on the Beaver, two miles and a half north of the site of the town of Bromfield. In 1863 an overland stage line was put in operation between Nebraska City and Fort Kearney, and "Prairie Camp," a relay station, was established six miles west of the Millspaw ranch. A second trail crossed the county following the Platte bottom. This was first traveled by the military, and subsequently by the "forty-niners," and was called the "Old Fort Kearney," or "Pike's Peak Trail." About 1862, J. T. Briggs established a ranch on this trail near the Platte. These several ranches flourished until 1867, when the advent of the iron horse supplanted the ox and mule team of the freighter. Traces of these old trails can be seen at this day, but they are rapidly disappearing under the plow of the husbandman.

The first white men to encroach on the domain of the savage was the Indian expedition of Gen. Kearney, in 1835, which crossed this county on the line of the old trail between Lincoln and Beaver creeks. J. P. Elliott, one

of the first settlers of Aurora Precinct, accompanied that expedition. In 1842 the exploring party of Gen. John C. Fremont crossed the county, and they were followed five or six years later by the Mormons, in their long weary journey from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake. A deep, wide "trail" marked the course of their march. This was known as the "Old Mormon Trail," and was the route traveled by the freight and stage lines, between Nebraska City and Fort Kearney, until the building of the Union Pacific Railroad superseded these modes of conveyance. One of these transportation companies tried the experiment of drawing the freight wagons by a steam road engine. The experiment proved a failure, but it served to give the old trail a new name, that of the "Steam Wagon Trail."

Occasionally the county has been visited by severe snow storms termed "blizzards," which usually continue from twelve to forty-eight hours. They are characterized by a high north wind, while air is filled with a whirling, driving, sifting mass of snow. Probably the most severe of these storms was the celebrated "Easter Storm" of April 13, 1873, which raged with great fury during three days. The air was filled with a blinding cloud of snow, which was so dense as to render objects at a few yards distance entirely invisible. The weather was not cold and the snow was wet and heavy. Considerable stock perished during this storm, but no lives were lost in this county, although some of the adjoining counties were not so fortunate. The storm was very seriously felt by the settlers, as they were in many cases poorly provided, not only with proper shelter for stock, but even in the matter of shelter for their families. One can hardly appreciate the hardships to which the early settlers of this county were exposed, certainly not one who has come here within the last decade. The conditions now are so entirely different that it is difficult to realize that scarce a score of years ago this was a boundless plain, unmarked by the hand of civilization.

Where now are seen peaceful farms and hamlets, with herds of cattle and horses quietly feeding in the green meadows, vast herds of buffalo, elk, deer and antelope were wont to roam, when first the feet of the settler trod these plains. These herds contributed liberally to supply the larder of the pioneer, however, and were highly appreciated at a time when the nearest trading point was Nebraska City. They soon disappeared, however before the advance of civilization, and the last great herd of buffalo left in 1869 to return no more. Elk, Deer and antelope remained a little longer, and ten years after the disappearance of the buffalo, occasional bands of antelopes could be seen.

Thus Hamilton County of to-day, whose beautiful farms, and busy, thriving cities and villages, was but a generation ago the hunting grounds of the Indian, who "untrammeled by law" pursued the immense herds of buffalo, elk, deer and antelope which fed on the luxuriant grasses, with which bountiful nature had carpeted her valleys, hills and sloping plains.

#### THE EARLIEST SETTLERS

The first frame house was erected by F. H. Clark in 1870, the lumber being hauled from Grand Island.

The first birth in the county took place at the Mills paw Ranch, a son to

John and Rosy McClellan and grandson to David Millspaw. This transpired in the fall of 1861 and two years later the first death took place at this same ranch in the removal of the above mentioned child in the summer of 1863, and was buried on the prairie near the site of the old ranch.

The first birth on record was a son to C. O. Wescott (Orville Wescott) from whom the town of Orville, received its name.

The first marriage was that of Phillip Hart to Elizabeth Ellen Verley, August 21, 1870, by Robert Lamont, Probate Judge. The first death was that of the wife of J. D. Wescott.

The first election was held at the house of John Harris on the Blue, May 3, 1870.

The first case tried in the district court was a divorce suit at a term of this court, presided over by Hon. George B. Lake. Mr. E. W. Denio and Mr. Darnell were the counsel retained, and were the first lawyers who practised in the county.

The first Fourth of July celebration was held, in the year 1870, in a grove on the south side of the Blue, the property of Mr. J. D. Wescott. The oration was delivered by B. D. Brown, the orator of the day, it being his first attempt, and also the first oration listened to in the county.

The first crime committed was the murder of a Mr. Johnson, of Illinois, in August, 1870. In company with Mr. F. Sawyer, of Lincoln, Nebraska, he had been looking at the county, and it is supposed Sawyer murdered him for his money, while they were returning to Lincoln.

Johnson's body was found several days after, lying on the prairie in this county, and Sawyer was arrested on suspicion at Lincoln and brought back to Hamilton County for preliminary examination, which took place before Justice of the Peace John Brown, at the house of James Waddle, about the 1st of September. He was bound over, and sent to Lincoln for safe keeping, where he was discharged from custody on a writ of habeas corpus.

In the winter of 1870 Mr. James Rollo had the misfortune to temporarily lose his eyesight. At this time he was living in a small dug-out, on the Blue River. The winter being quite severe, the settlers in the immediate vicinity proposed to make a chopping-bee, and cut, score and hew the logs for a new house. Mr. Rollo decided to celebrate the event by giving his friends what was considered a rare treat in those days of bachelorhood, a huge cake. Mr. John Harris was solicited, and accepted the appointment of cook, and one Sunday morning found him hard at work in Mr. Rollo's dug-out, fulfilling the duties of his appointment. The ingredients used in preparing the cake were: two pounds and a half of sugar, two dozen eggs and flour in proportion. They were stirred together with all the skill he possessed and put to bake in an old bake oven at 9 A. M. After six hours of careful watching it came out in all its greatness fully as large as a half-bushel.

On Monday the settlers gathered and soon their busy axes made the little timber-grove ring. At noon the work was well under way and all hands suspended operations to sample the cake. A gallon of sorghum was served as a relish, brought on in an old coffee-pot, and all made a hearty meal, carrying the fragments to their several homes.

In later years, in many of the dwellings of those who participated in the

event, may be found a well-kept and cherished relic, a piece of this well remembered cake.

#### INDIAN DAYS

While the early settlers were never really molested by the Indians, they were in constant apprehension of a visit from those turbulent denizens of the plains, and the slightest indication of their advent served to call the little band of brave men together, armed for the fray. One or two incidents will serve to illustrate this.

In the fall of 1868 a stranger dashed up to the door of "Jarv." Chaffee's dug-out, his horse covered by foam, and said he had been chased six miles by a band of Indians. The alarm was at once spread down the river, and in a short time a dozen men were assembled, well armed and mounted. Among them were Charles White, Robert Hendersson, Alex Salmon, Hugh Ketchum, Robert Waddle, Norris M. Bray, C. O. Wescott, Dan George, R. Fairbanks, John Harris and Alex Laurie. They at once started up the river to meet the foe. After riding for several hours, scouring the "draws" along the river, night overtook them, without having seen any traces of Indians. They had reached what is now Seoville Precinct, and concluded to camp there till morning, which they did, sitting down on the prairie and holding their horses. During the night they were disturbed by observing some kind of animal prowling around through their camp. Investigation revealed the fact that it was one of their own number, Alex Salmon, moving around on his hands and knees. Asked what he was looking for, he replied that he was "hunting a hole in which to put his picket pin so he could go to sleep."

The next morning, no signs of Indians being seen, they decided that the stranger had been lying and returned to their homes. The same day a party of Indians attacked the ranch of Mr. Wall, a few miles farther west, in Hall County.

On another occasion Mrs. James Waddle was alone at her home with her children, when she observed a party of horsemen coming over the hill toward the house. As this was off the line of travel, she concluded at once that the strangers were Indians, and determined to defend her home and little ones to the death. The house consisted of two rooms, the front or main room being built of logs, and the rear being a "dug-out" with a door connecting them. Instantly putting the children in the dug-out, she placed a large meat barrel in the open doorway, then arming herself with several revolvers, and Bob's rifle, she concealed herself in the barrel and awaited the attack. When the party came up she was relieved to find they were whites, a band of "gold-diggers," on their way to California. With her characteristic hospitality, for which she is so deservedly famous, she supplied their inner wants, and sent them on their way rejoicing.

The first post-office was established on the Blue, at the house of Robert Lamont, who was appointed postmaster. The post-office was named Verona, and continued under that name until its removal to Orville City. In the spring of 1871, a second post-office was established on Lincoln Creek, at the house of S. W. Spafford, with S. W. Spafford as postmaster. A weekly mail route was

established, L. W. Hastings, contractor, from Seward to Grand island, via York and Spafford's Grove, and in the spring of 1872 another office, called Williamsport, was established at William Werth's place. Later this office was moved to the house of G. W. Hiatt on the "State Road" the town line between Townships 10 and 11.

Mr. Hastings being the first mail carrier had quite an amusing incident occur on one of his trips.

It happened upon one dark night in the winter of 1871 and 1872, as he was journeying westward from New York to Aurora, that he lost his way. The roads were travelled but little, and the snow blown by the winds filled the tracks as fast as they were made. After groping about in the dark for some time, he took a star for his guide, hoping to reach Lincoln Creek and follow it home. All at once the horses came to a full stop, and refused to go any farther. He urged them, applied his whip with vigor, but still they refused to move. He got out of his buggy, and found he had been trying to make his horses climb a dug-out, owned by Mrs. Fodge. He found the steps leading down and knocked at the door; a voice within called out, "Who's there?" "Answer me, where am I?"

From inside—"You are there at the door." "Yes, I know, but where am I?" "At the door, I say." "Yes, but what part of the country, I mean?" "In Nebraska." "Yes, I know, but which way from Aurora?" "Oh, you are east from Aurora." The mail carrier, getting desperate, cried out, "Well, open this door and see if you can tell me the road to Aurora." "Oh, you are lost, are you?" Whereupon they put him upon his course, so that after being started twice, he went on his way, rejoicing.

From the little handful of eighteen sturdy pioneers who assembled at the house of John Harris barely twenty years ago to organize the county, their followers have increased to a population of nearly or quite 15,000, and their possessions to an assessed valuation of over \$2,000,000.

T. A. McKay, retired, Hamilton (served as treasurer from 1878 to 1882); Robert Waddle, meat market, Aurora; E. J. Waddle, banker, Aurora; T. B. Johnson, editor and publisher, Stockham (served as Representative in 1877 and 1878, and in 1881 and 1882); Joseph Stockham (was commissioner from 1882 to 1885); Gen. Delevan Bates, banker, Aurora (served as superintendent in 1876 and 1877, has also served the city of Aurora as treasurer, councilman and mayor); R. W. Graybill, attorney at law, Aurora (was Representative in 1879 and 1880).

The following named settlers, who were prominently identified with the early history of the county, passed over the river in the late seventies or early eighties, and settled in that country "from whose bourne no traveler ever returns:" John Brown, John Salmon, Phil Hunter, G. C. Boyce, James M. Foster, J. A. Foster, S. K. Butler, Alex Laurie (one of the members of the first board of commissioners), S. N. Case (died while serving as commissioner in 1885), R. M. Hunt, William D. Young, William Werth, John H. Helms, James Laurie (died April 18, 1886, while serving as county clerk).



## COMING OUT WEST

A little booklet printed in 1876 and another printed late in the eighties advertising the advantages of Hamilton County, Nebraska just as towns in Colorado, Montana, Texas or Pacific coast territory in late years have advertised to citizens of Nebraska and states farther east to serve to picture the character of handicaps versus the attractions of settling "out here" then. A few excerpts from these sources, while perhaps to the older settlers of the county will be recognized as at least slightly overestimating some points, will serve to illustrate to the newer residents the portrayal that served to attract their older relatives and neighbors here a generation or two ago. To the older pioneers, they will bring back by-gone memories, somewhat enameled and polished.

## STOCKHAM MILLS

This mill is on the Big Blue river and is one of the best flouring mills in this part of the state. It has two run of stone and is fitted with all the late and most improved machinery, and is thereby enabled to turn out the very best quality of flour.

## HEALTH

The bright skies, pure water, and clear, life-inspiring atmosphere of Northern Nebraska give to men and animals the vitality and inspirations of youth. Everybody feels young, elastic and self-commanding in this healthful country, and nothing denotes age save the hills and stately cottonwoods. Men and animals move with quick, elastic step, and live in the atmosphere of health and content. It is the paradise of invalids. No country in America can show so low a rate of mortality. It is anti-billions, anti-consumptive and anti-dyspeptic. Not a breath of malaria taints the perfectly pure air. Old men and women grow young with a renewal of vital force in an atmosphere where respiration has the ease and freedom of healthful sleep. The dryness and purity of the atmosphere arrest incipient consumption; bronchial and asthmatic affections, dyspepsia, general debility and many other common forms of disease, readily yield to the tone and stimulus of the perfect climate. Hundreds of the settlers who came here from the old states on account of ill health, will give a joyous attestation to the curative properties of a climate that gives nearly universal immunity from doctors and physic. If the Gileads of other lands have no balm for their consumptives, dyspeptics and asthmatics, their unfortunate subjects of general debility, nervousness and unsatisfied longing, and will send them out here to camp out, ride in the saddle, breathe the pure air, hunt deer, elk and antelope, shoot prairie chickens, plover and water fowl; live upon their broiled flesh, drink sweet milk, grow sunbrowned and strong, the writer will warrant nine-tenths of them the good health they covet in a hundred days.

## WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

A very common error into which persons preparing to move out west fall is in shipping too many of their goods. This is very expensive, and the goods

are liable to be delayed upon the road; thereby causing inconvenience to the parties, who arrive first and have to wait weeks in some instances for their things to come being in the meantime compelled to board. It often happens that household furniture, agricultural implements and many other articles frequently shipped for hundreds of miles, can actually be bought here for the amount of freight paid upon them.

#### EDUCATIONAL

It is of much importance to every person thinking of going to a new state to make a home and bring up his family to ascertain what provision has been made for the educational interests of the people. There is no standard by which the intelligence, the character and the progress of a nation may be so accurately determined as that furnished by the public schools. In this respect Nebraska may fearlessly challenge comparison with any other western state. In no section is more attention given to educational interests. In none has more rapid progress been made in the efficiency of the schools, or the number and character of the school buildings. The schools are the pride of the people and the glory of the country, and ample means have been provided to place them on a firm enduring basis. A vast landed estate, consisting of two sections, 1,280 acres in each township, or one-eighteenth part of the entire area, has been donated to Nebraska by the general government and set apart as a permanent endowment of the public schools. These lands, it is estimated, will amount to more than 2,500,000 acres. The lowest price at which they can be sold is fixed by the constitution at \$7 per acre. The school lands sold thus far have, invariably, brought a higher price than could be obtained for other lands adjacent to them yielding, on an average, \$7.59 per acre. The principal thus accruing is guarded by constitutional guaranty against diminution, and forms an irreducible school fund. The income derived from this source is already considerable, and will soon, it is hoped, be almost sufficient to maintain the public schools, and render taxation for school purposes comparatively light. In this county there are 85 school districts, all of which have buildings and excellent teachers.

#### INHABITANTS, WEALTH, ETC.

Many of the advertisements sent east in the interests of this country do it great injustice. They describe the country, speak of the climate, soil etc, but neglect to mention some of the more essential points. People who desire to make the West their future home, at present, are many of them, well-to-do, and do not care much about the price of land. They wish to locate where there is something more than land, they desire to start in where the highest state of civilization exists; where good people reside; where fine farms are opened up; where churches are established, where good schools exist; where there is some wealth represented; and where taxes are low; where good railroad facilities abound; where in fact, all the modern improvements, and where comfort, prosperity and thrift are established—such are the places where a majority of eastern men and women want to locate and live. So we say, oftentimes these matters so important and essential are omitted, and the public left to doubt. It is our

object to dispel any false ideas that may exist as to the advantages in this direction. With this in view, we herewith append a few facts and figures which will no doubt astonish the uninformed. The population, figuring from the returns of last year, which is the latest data to be had, is probably about 8,000. The assessed valuation of the county, which is only one-third of the full amount, was last year \$1,220,000. There is no floating debt and warrants are paid upon presentation to the county treasurer. Total tax, county and state, about 21 mills.

#### SHEEP RAISING

Sheep raising is a very important part of Nebraska husbandry. This State is becoming noted for one of the most favorable locations on the continent for this great remunerative industry. None of the condition of climate, soil, pasture and water necessary to successful sheep husbandry is wanting here. The general elevation of the county is dry, cool and invigorating. There are one or two wool growers in this county who believe sheep are more profitable even than cattle, and taking this county as a whole it is unquestionably a splendid sheep country. In proof of the facts above stated we refer the reader to the flock of Rev. H. M. Giltner, of Aurora this county, in 1879 sheared a sheep whose fleece weighed 23 pounds.

#### SWINE

This is by no means a doubtful calling in Nebraska. Among the breeds now grown in this county are the Berkshire and Suffolk of model English types, and the best kinds of Poland-China known to American breeding. The long-eared, sharp-nosed, lantern-jawed, slab-sided, half-Indian and half-native hog of the early days of Iowa and Illinois is only a creature of memory, and our swine of this day are of the purest blood known to man. The much despised hog is in his glory here and is a source of much profit to the farmer.

#### THE GARDEN

Owing to the nature of the soil this county may properly be called the garden spot of Nebraska. There is probably no county in the state where a larger variety of garden products can be so successfully grown. The Nebraska garden, which is here found in perfection, may be universal, for the soil is everywhere admirably suited for that purpose.

#### FENCING

Among the most frequent questions of persons contemplating moving to a new state, is the cost of fencing. Well may this subject engage their thoughtful attention. On an ordinary farm in the East, the put-up and keeping in repair of fences involves a greater outlay of money and labor than all the necessary buildings, and forms by far the most burdensome tax the farmer has to meet. Here the herd law does away with the necessity of fences. Here cattle are fenced in, instead of out. The principle has worked well and has

given universal satisfaction. Hedges can be grown here as quick and as cheap as any place in the United States. The soil and climate are well adapted to the osage orange, which makes one of the best of fences for a prairie farm.

#### STOCK BREEDING

Stock breeding is soon to be one of the leading industries of the county. There are now a number of choice, thorough-bred bulls and cows but there is room for a number more herds of thoroughbred cattle. As wealth accumulates and mixed farming becomes more general, Hamilton county will come to be one of the heaviest breeding and feeding counties in the state, and for those who come here now with a few fine head of thoroughbred cattle and horses the future is brilliant with promises of large profits. Hamilton county is capable of subsisting 25,000 head of cattle and horses as an auxiliary to general farming. Every condition of climate, soil, water, grasses, and market advantages necessary to a royal stock county is here in full measure. No country on the face of the earth is equal to the Platte River valley for stock growing, of which valley Hamilton county has over forty miles besides the valleys of the four rivers that flow through the county from west to east. The business can never be over-done where nature has provided all the conditions of stock growing where millions of bushels of corn may be grown at 10 cents per bushel, (in 1879), within easy reach of market. This county offers hundreds of openings to the ambitious stock grower.

#### FLAX

The soil of this county is better adapted to the production of flax than many of the soils east, where flax growing is made a speciality. It generally yields from ten to fifteen bushels per acre, and the seed is of excellent quality bringing the highest market prices.

#### POTATOES

Potatoes flourish here in the highest degree and it is doubtful whether any state in the Union can make a better showing in the yield quantity and flavor than in Nebraska. The soil of this county is better adapted to this crop than any of her sister counties, owing to the perfect drainage of her rolling prairies. The tuber is always large and healthy, and is never troubled with rot as is the case with wet, heavy soils.

#### TURNIPS

Turnips can be grown to an enormous size on the sod, and are of an excellent quality.

#### ONIONS

Onions do well here, and frequently large crops have been grown for the market yielding from one to two hundred bushels per acre. They are large perfect and of uniform size.

## OATS

This is a very valuable crop not for export, but for home feeding and will grow on any of the lands found in this county giving a yield of from 25 to 106 bushels per acre. The aggregate crop (in 1880) will reach 360,000 bushels.

## BARLEY

Barley is generally considered a profitable crop both for market and feeding. The soil is admirably adapted to its production, and like oats the grain is unusually heavy and the grade good when properly cared for. The average is about 30 bushels per acre.

## RYE

Rye is as much at home in Hamilton county as any where in the great west, the yield running from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre, twenty bushels being frequently harvested after the crop has been closely pastured all the fall. The total products of the county for 1879 was 28,000 bushels, the market price of which was about 60 cents per bushel.

## BROOM CORN

Broom corn has been very successfully grown for a number of years. It is of such high quality, and the brush grown in this climate is so superior that it is likely to soon become one of the leading staples of the county. It has been known to do so well in sod that it has been known to pay the purchase price of railroad land the first year.

## CORN

Hamilton county is one of the leading counties of the state for its corn products. The average for the year 1879 was 48 bushels per acre, with an aggregate of 1,200,000 bushels. No county in the state can produce more or better corn than this county. Its corn crop for the year 1879 will be worth to its farmers over \$100,000. There are a number in the county whose corn crop is from 3,000 to 7,000 bushels and some having still larger crops.

## WILD AND TAME GRASSES

It is said that there are 150 varieties, luxuriant in growth, and excellent in quality, which certainly form one of the grandest resources of the county. They are the herdsman's stock in trade, and fat steers, mutton, wool and dairy products are the net results. They cover every rod of ground above the water lines, and yield the finest pastures and hay of any county in the state. The question as to whether domestic grasses will thrive here or not is a fixed fact, and to-day the many beautiful farms with meadows of all descriptions of tame grasses only need to be seen to convince anyone that they grow here as luxur-

iantly as in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, or the state of New York. Wherever a test of raising tame grass has been made no careful observer can fail of the conclusion that as the prairie grasses disappear before the all-conquering plow, this whole country will become as rich in domestic meadows as any country between the Alleghany and Rocky Mountains.

#### PRODUCTS

The products of Hamilton county are wheat, oats, rye, barley, flax, hemp, corn, broom corn, buckwheat, millet, hungarian, sorghum, peas, beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, peanuts, onions, turnips and all vegetables of the field. The area embraced in this latitude (between 36 degrees and 56 minutes and 42 degrees) is the favored spot of the United States: and here industry obtains the most certain and highest reward. It is temperate in climate, the land is fruitful and yields in great abundance those products which are the necessities of the world accordingly. Here agriculture can be more diversified than anywhere else. Our farmers are not dependent on any one single staple of farm, or garden for they are all at home on this soil. The farmer here may plant a vineyard or an orchard and therein will flourish the finest fruits of the middle latitudes, for they are equally at home here. He may grow wool and mutton, cattle and swine and may add to his long list a dairy and poultry yard, for the best condition of any of those callings are sure of success here. This is the belt in this state in which industry obtains the most certain and highest reward. The climate is temperate, the land is fruitful, and bears in great abundance those products which are the necessities of life, and which have the greatest value in the markets of the world. Here agriculture can be more diversified than anywhere else and the farmer need not depend on any one single staple but raise crops so various that a season not suitable for one is profitable to some other. The new settler though, finds more immediate profit in wheat growing than anything else, and that is his specialty until he acquires capital and his farm wears off the newness of the soil. Wheat makes a better crop upon the newly broken prairie than any other grain, and indeed reaches its maximum yield on new ground, which has frequently been known to reach 36 bushels per acre. Nebraska is a wheat growing country by virtue of soil, climate and altitude. It is one of the few regions of the continent whose soil has the essential elements for permanent wheat growing; whose climate too is sufficiently dry and stimulating to prevent rust, give a bright stem and a hard, plump, heavy berry. Altitude has much to do with successful wheat growing, and here it is no uncommon thing to find fields where the grain weighs from sixty-two to sixty-five pounds per bushel. Hamilton county never fails of a wheat crop. Even in 1874, the wheat crop was a full one. The average number of bushels per acre for 1879 was rather below that of previous years, while the aggregate is much larger, being over 500,000.

#### TIMBER CULTURE

Hamilton county is, properly speaking, a prairie county. There are no large tracts of wild, native woodland here. To Eastern people, born and reared

in a densely wooded country, this will be a matter of great solicitude, as they will naturally conclude that a liberal per cent of native forest is actually necessary to their general prosperity. Not so, however with the prairie farmer. He soon finds by experience that timber can be grown much cheaper than it can be cleared off the land, and that thirty, forty or sixty acres of well cultivated land pays better in annual crops of such wheat and corn as will grow in this county than a large investment in perpetual forest. The history of counties reclaimed from their timber and made inhabitable, is the toil and labor of a generation before the land could be brought into a grain-growing and stock-raising, condition, capable of furnishing a place that could, with any degree of comfort, be called a home. On the other hand, the prairie, covered with its carpet of rich succulent grasses, free from stumps, stones, or other obstructions is ready for the plow on the arrival of the settler, and the first or second year at the farthest will reward his industry with bountiful crops. It has been fully demonstrated many times it is better, far easier, and much sooner accomplished to open prairie farm and raise the needed timber than it is to clear land timber and bring it into a tillable state. Nobody in Hamilton county worries over the timber question, for they are planting trees by the thousand and will soon have domestic forests that will command the admiration and wonder of the world. There is a real strife going on among all classes of our people for tree planting, the number annually planted running far up into the hundreds of thousands, and five years hence, Hamilton county will be as characteristic for her forests as she now is for her matchless streams, valleys and prairies.

#### FRUIT

Ten or twelve years ago fruit growing in Nebraska was looked upon with a great deal of distrust, and was engaged in by those whom it seemed had more money than brains. Now, however there are orchards in all of the older counties, from ten to forty and fifty acres in extent that return their owners a yearly revenue equal to many farms in the east of 160 acres. The freedom from severe frost during the months of May and September, in connection with the dry winters and warm, quick soil, proves beyond a doubt that this is one of the best fruit growing counties in the State. Peaches, plums, cherries, grapes, currants and berries of all kinds have been sufficiently tested to prove that they can be produced here in this county with ease and profit. There are a few as fine apple orchards in this county as we ever saw in any country in our life. The trees are bright, thrifty and promise to bear in abundance in a short time, Nebraska has taken three first premiums on fruit—one at the annual meeting of the American Pomological Society, which convened at Richmond, Virginia, in 1871; and one at the annual meeting of the same society at Boston, in Sept. 1873, and one at Chicago in 1875. Wild fruits, plums, grapes, blackberries, gooseberries and wild currants grow luxuriantly in the grasses along the streams. And although fruit growing is yet in its infancy in this county, enough is known to inspire our people with perfect confidence in its ultimate success to that degree that thousands of acres will be planted to fruit this season.

## RAINFALL

Many of our eastern people have been educated to the belief that Nebraska is seldom if ever visited by a rain storm. This theory has been advanced by some very eminent writers, not because they have a dislike for Nebraska but because they have a selfish liking for some one of the more eastern states. Horace Greeley once said "that this country was a dry sandy desert," but the next time he opened his mouth he was constrained to say, "Go west young man." A more erroneous statement than Greeley's first never was uttered by living man, and we are glad this lamented statesman saw and repented of his error before he died. The people who have resided here will testify to the fact that Nebraska receives her share of rain with fewer of those extremes of wet and dry than any other country on the globe. We know that we have had as much rainfall here in the growing seasons, with as little mud at any time of the year for the last ten years, as any other state; and out here such a proposition as mud and drouth seem ridiculous. This false impression, we are pleased to say is fast disappearing in the east, and they are beginning to realize that we do have a little rain once in a while. They can no longer deny the fact when they behold the enormous crops that we are shipping east every year. The average annual rainfall for the past ten years in this country has been estimated at 32 inches; and this mostly in May, June, and July. From Prof. Baily who has given much attention to the study of Nebraska meteorology, we are informed that the annual rainfall is now increasing very fast, and at no distant day even the extreme western parts of the state will have an abundant rainfall for all the needs of the agriculturist.

## CLIMATE

The climate of this county does not vary much from other portions of the South Platte country. Strangers on coming here at any season of the year do not hesitate to pronounce our climate the most delightful they ever experienced in any country; and those who have lived here any length of time say our climate is the most healthful and pleasant they have ever seen. Mild, dry, open winters with but little snow, and the bright warm sunshine have already given this county a name that our people may justly be proud of. Our summers are pleasant the warm rays of the sun being tempered by cool breezes that never forsake us. The spring brings with it moderate rains that seem to fall at just the right time, while our autumns cannot be surpassed by any country on the globe.

To the settlers of a new country no consideration should be paramount to that of climate. In all countries it is clearly one of the strongest factors in shaping the usefulness of man. The Nebraska summer is a long and genial warm season with delightful, breezy days and cool, refreshing nights. The hottest days of July and August are tempered by the almost constant winds. Our winters, as compared to the rigorous, snow, frost bound winters of some of the eastern states, is a very mild and pleasant season. Occasionally we have a severe storm, but what country is there that doesn't have its storms? The soft blue haze,



subdued mellow sunshine and gorgeous red sun-sets make this one of the most beautiful scenes one can behold.

Happily he who settles in Hamilton county enters upon the space for a home and a competence under the best possible conditions. He finds here a climate to delight him, water as pure as a mountain brook; and the best soil in the State. If not in the United States, with a climate not even second to its wonderful soil, then can it be a wonder that our settlers in a few years become so deeply imbued with such high courage, mental and physical endurance and culture, and possessed of such a sum of material, social, intellectual and moral development?

#### TOPOGRAPHICAL

The most perfect display of prairie in all the great west is to be found in Hamilton county. It is no exaggeration to pronounce this county, as left by nature, one of the most beautiful counties in its landscape upon the face of the earth. And probably no county in the state takes rank in advance of Hamilton county in an agricultural point of view.

The formation of the surface is such that natural drainage is here displayed in its highest state of perfection. The beds of the creeks and water courses are much depressed and sloughs of standing water are here comparatively unknown, which is not the case in some of the other counties. The soil is from two to three feet deep, and in many places much deeper and resembles a composite of artificial mold, more than wild, natural soil. There is no doubt that the soil of this county will stand more drouth and more rain than any other county in the state. It is possessed of natural drainage, in the highest degree, absorbing water like a huge sponge, and in a time of drouth, sending it back to the surface from its greatest depths, by capillary attraction, for the needs of vegetation. This is the reason why crops in this county are rarely dried up or drowned out.

#### THE SOIL

Is like the finest garden mold, dark color, easily worked, and eminently productive. The soil in this county is from two to three feet deep, and when properly tilled has never been known to disappoint the husbandman, good and sure harvests being the result of honest labor, enabling the farmer to produce a variety of crops, being equally good for corn, wheat and other small crops. You have only to tickle it with the plow and it will laugh a harvest that will gladden the hearts and make joyous the homes of the husbandmen. There seems to be hardly a limit to the wide range of grain, grasses and vegetables produced here. There is not a domestic product of the soil adapted to this climate that fails of perfect development here. Even many of the semi-tropical plants makes a wonderful showing on this soil when climate and altitude are considered. Winter and spring wheat, rye, corn, barley, oats, buckwheat, sorghum, flax, hemp, broom corn, millet, hungarian, tobacco, beans, peas, Irish and sweet potatoes, onions, turnips and all of the garden vegetables, all the domestic grasses, apples, peaches, peats, cherries, plums, grapes, currants, and all the endless list of small fruits, osage orange and

everything that grows in the medium latitudes flourishes in this county to perfection.

The soil here is not too porous so that it will not hold water for the sustenance of vegetation, nor is it too compact or solid, holding all the water that falls upon it, at the surface. The soil of this county is of such a nature that the fibrous roots of trees and plants have been found at a depth of from fifteen to twenty-five feet.

## CHAPTER II

### EARLY SETTLEMENTS BY TOWNSHIPS

FIRST SETTLEMENTS—STILL HERE IN 1890—A FARM SURVEY BY TOWNSHIPS (1897)—  
SCOVILLE—UNION PRECINCT—ORVILLE PRECINCT—FARMERS VALLEY PRE-  
CINCT—BEAVER PRECINCT—AURORA PRECINCT—HAMILTON PRECINCT—DEEP-  
WELL PRECINCT—PHILLIPS PRECINCT—MONROE PRECINCT—GRANT PRECINCT  
—VALLEY PRECINCT—OTIS PRECINCT—SOUTH PLATTE PRECINCT—BLUFF PRE-  
CINCT—THE STORY OF THE CENSUS.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS

The first settlement made in the county for the purposes of agriculture was made on the Blue River, near the south line of the county, by Jarvis Chaffee and George Hicks, who settled on Section 34, Township 9, Range 6, in the month of June, 1866. Mr. Chaffee built a "dug-out," which was the first residence constructed in the county, its size being 10x12 feet. In January, 1867, James Waddle and John Brown made settlements on Section 26, Township 9, Range 5, in Farmer's Valley Precinct. These, with their families, were the next to make Hamilton County their home, and they built the first log-houses in the county. J. D. Wescott, C. O. Wescott, N. M. Bray, Michael Steinmetz, arrived in May of the same year, and also located in Farmer's Valley. In the month of June, 1867, Robert Lamont and James Cameron settled on Section 26, Township 9, Range 6, and John Harris took a claim on Section 28, Township 9, Range 5. In October of the same year, James Cummings and William D. Young located in Farmer's Valley Precinct.

In the month of February, 1868, George Proud settled on Section 26, Township 9, Range 6, and in December John Salmon, Alexander Salmon, James Rollo and Frank Dickson made settlements. The Messrs. Salmon made their claims on Section 28, Mr. Rollo on Section 30, Township 9, Range 5, and Mr. Dickson on Section 26, Township 9, Range 6.

In April, 1869, S. M. Hunter and Philip Hunter settled on Section 34, Township 9, Range 5, and in the month of June, John Laurie settled on the claim of John Harris, Section 28, Township 9, Range 5.

The first settlers on Lincoln Creek were Martin Werth and family. William Werth and August Werth, locating on Section 24, Township 10, Range 5, in October 1869. Jacob Erickson also settled about this time on Section 22. The following spring of 1870, S. W. Spafford and family and N. P. Spafford settled on Section 32, and Henry Spafford on Section 34, Township 11, Range 6. L. W. Hastings and James McBride settled on Section 2, Township 10, Range 6. In the fall of 1870, G. C. Boyce, Noah Brotherton, William S. Boyce, came out here from Iowa to locate, but returned and came out the next spring.

J. M. Fodge, G. Haner, A. P. Hendrickson, A. Mongenson, J. M. Sechler, John Mathews, J. C. Ratcliff, J. P. Elliott, John Hagerman, P. C. Culver, John Tweedy, D. Grant, C. H. Kimball, John and Christopher Hazelbaker made settlements during the spring and summer of 1871, and in the fall of 1871 Messrs. Fodge and family made settlement on Section 32.

The Blue Valley in the north part of the county was settled by W. L. Whittemore in 1870, who took up his claim on Section 2, Township 12, Range 5. B. F. Webb also settled on Section 12, Township 12, Range 5. T. W. Manchester, M. Vanduzen and others located here in 1872.

John Danhauer settled in South Platte Precinct in 1871, Stephen Platz and James Odell in 1872.

Mr. Hewett settled in the extreme northeast corner of the county on Section 24, Township 10, Range 5, in 1872, and shortly after J. W. Ward, C. Thurman, James Foster and J. A. Foster, who took up their claims in Bluff Precinct.

S. K. Butler and Henry Jennings are also among the early settlers who came to Hamilton County with the heavy frosts of many years resting upon their honest faces, but showing as much youth and vigor in subduing its fertile soil as many of the younger settlers. Mr. Platz brought with him quite a herd of cattle, but most of them perished during the Easter storm of 1873, while that tremendous storm of snow and wind was sweeping over the county. Among the older settler of the extreme west side of the county are Charles Tompkins and family, Jacob Jeffers and family, and Mrs. Charlotte Ward, who arrived and camped on their homesteads on Section 4, Township 10, Range 8.

The next settlers were H. B. Hall and Rev. A. D. Tremball. Mr. Hall settled on Section 28, and Rev. Tremball upon Section 32, Township 11, Range 8, and S. P. Cowgill, another early settler, located upon Section 4, Township 10, Range 8.

The first settler in Hamilton Precinct, formerly a part of Deepwell Precinct, was G. K. Eaton, who took up his claim in the spring of 1872, and shortly after was followed by H. B. Miller, Robert Eyres, S. B. Gebhart, B. F. Isaman and Samuel Miller.

A post-office was established here in 1874 under the name of Hamilton and afterward changed to Alvin. Benjamin Abbott was appointed post-master.

The southwest part of the county embracing Scoville and Union Precincts was settled in 1871; Union, by M. Farrell, D. Kensinger, J. E. Jackett, A. V. B. Peek, W. H. and C. M. Garrison, taking up their claims on Sections 20 and 28, Township 9, Range 7; Scoville, by D. A. Scoville and D. W. Garrison, who held full possession until the spring of 1873, when they were joined by A. Murdock, J. M. Livingstone, T. D. Case and S. N. Case. Messrs. Scoville and Garrison settled on Section 24, Township 9, Range 8.

In the fall of 1872 there was quite a sensation created in this precinct caused by a party of men hunting antelope. The report of their guns frightened a woman into the belief that the Indians had made a raid upon the settlement. Taking her two small children she fled from her home, partly dragging them across the prairie spreading the news of carnage and desolation among the settlers as she went, and finally concealing herself in an old sod stable.

Brave men were soon under arms willing to die for their homes and families. The women, after the first occasion of alarm had passed, showed themselves

worthy, and quietly went to work running bullets and preparing ammunition for their husbands, who were out waiting to give the first Indian that appeared a warm reception. After a time the true state of affairs was discovered, and after a hearty laugh all returned to their homes, and peace and quiet once more prevailed.

The first settlers on Beaver Creek were R. M. Hunt, Samuel Yost and S. B. Chapman, in 1870, and very soon after they were followed by J. W. Jones, H. M. Graham, Henry Newman and Franklin Jacoby.

During the years 1872 and 1873 settlers poured into the county from all parts of the country. Since that date settlers have continued to arrive with each succeeding season, transforming its fertile soil from a mere uninteresting plain of rolling billowy prairie into a very garden, teeming with a busy population by communities having greater opportunities and hoary with the frost of a century.

#### STILL HERE IN 1890

A survey in 1890 showed quite a number of the old settlers yet remaining to till the soil, many of them being in comfortable circumstances, and some having accumulated respectable fortunes; among them were the following, with a statement of important official positions which they had already occupied in the county: Jarvis Chaffee, James Waddle, J. D. Wescott (county clerk, 1870 to 1874), N. M. Bray (commissioner, 1870 to 1875), George Proud, James Rollo (coroner, 1870 to 1872), Alex Salmon (coroner, 1872 to 1874), John Laurie (superintendent, 1870 to 1872), Martin Werth, James McBride, John Mathews, John Hagerman, P. C. Culver, T. W. Manchester, John Danbauer, J. M. Hewitt, O. Thurman, Jacob Jaffers, G. K. Eaton, Robert Eyres, B. F. Isaman (county commissioner, 1875 to 1878; a member of a later board, his term expiring January, 1893), Benjamin Abbott, M. Farrell, D. Kensinger, J. M. Livingstone, T. D. Case, J. W. Skelton, W. J. Carver, Frank Jenison, W. H. Hardin, F. C. Putman (State Senator, 1885 to 1887; commissioner, 1887 to 1890), Ed Huling (commissioner, 1879 to 1882, and member of a later board, his term expiring January, 1891), Edward Nugent (commissioner, 1873 to 1878), Jonathan Foster (commissioner, 1879 to 1881), Samuel Yost, J. W. Jones, C. O. Wescott (treasurer, 1870 to 1874), P. C. Housel (commissioner, 1873 to 1875).

The following named pioneers of the county abandoned the peaceful pursuit of agriculture during the eighties to engage later in other occupations: N. P. Spafford, merchant, Aurora; L. W. Hastings, editor Republican, Aurora; George Hauer, Hampton; John Tweedy, postmaster, Aurora; C. H. Kimball, retired, Aurora; S. B. Gebhart, constable, Aurora; A. V. B. Peck, postmaster, Bromfield (served as commissioner from 1878 to 1880); D. A. Seovill, police judge (served as State Senator in 1879 and 1880, and one of the members of the Legislature in 1889, also served one term as sheriff from 1876 to 1878); S. B. Chapman, merchant, Aurora; Henry Newman, retired, Aurora; J. F. Glover, retired, Hamilton (served as commissioner in 1871 and 1872); William Glover, banker, Aurora and Bromfield; A. M. Glover, merchant, Aurora; Robert Lamont, drayman, Aurora (served as first probate judge in 1870 to 1872).

## A FARM SURVEY BY TOWNSHIPS

The foregoing short survey of the earliest settlers has located them in the various parts of the county to a small degree. It has furthermore recounted the later careers and departure of many of those first sturdy pioneers.

Naturally space forbids our hunting up each one of the pioneer settlers, homesteaders or original purchasers of each quarter of railroad land, and tracing down their career. We feel that those who came during the decades of the seventies and eighties, when things were harder and comforts were scarcer in Hamilton County and stayed from ten to twenty and some for thirty years, are the founders fraternity who did the most toward building up and developing the county. This, jocularly, is upon the theory that the "first twenty years was the hardest," and especially that portion of it which may have fallen within the drought period of the middle nineties. Therefore, recourse has been had to a farm survey made by the Editor of the Aurora Sun late in 1897, at which time he endeavored to visit every farm in the county, record the length of residence and from where its owner, tenant or resident came to Hamilton County. While, no doubt some have been left out who should have been included in this survey, it will serve also to record the character, type, nationalities and general tenor of the early populace of Hamilton County.

## SCOVILLE PRECINCT

This precinct, in the furthestmost southwest corner of the county, was named after D. A. Scoville, who, with D. W. Garrison, was one of its original settlers in 1871.

Most of the residents of this precinct herein noted claimed either Giltner, Hamilton County, Trumbull, Clay County, or Doniphan, Hall County, as their post office.

E. M. Carter came to the county in 1886; W. Z. Pollard from Iowa in 1873, settling first in Beaver Precinct. Michael Sullivan, Henry Wunderlich, Thomas McKee, J. A. Shafer, from Wisconsin, and James A. Kirk came to the county in 1878. Others who had arrived earlier during the decade of the seventies were: Mrs. Augusta Waltman, Jonathan Foster, Henry Kroutwick, Thomas Herr, Phillip H. and E. L. Case, T. D. Case from Leesburg, Indiana. J. J. Smith, Frank L. Munn in 1873 and William F. Smith, in 1872. Herman Bretenfeldt, from Minnesota in 1874. E. F. Simmons came from Canada, in 1875, and later married Hattie Washburn, daughter of G. H. Washburn. J. W. Carriker came in 1874 from Illinois. William H. Case came in 1873. John Boag arrived in 1874, while David Boag had arrived from Wisconsin three years earlier. About 1880, came William Roche, W. C. Devereaux, and John R. Gallentine, from Pennsylvania, who for a time was in the implement business in Giltner. Sidney White came from Illinois in 1881. The year 1882 brought a goodly influx into this locality, among whom were Eldoras Lane, from Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon White, Mrs. White still living in the precinct in 1897; Fred Wagner, from Minnesota, and William Headtke, while in 1883 among those who came were J. E. Schertz, Eli Harrison, John J. Kline, M. Pressler, Robert H. Gilmore. In 1886 William Chishold came, also Emil

Pearson, and in 1887 C. E. Gossard and G. M. Reeder. John M. Livingston and Robert Gray were also prominent pioneers of this precinct, the latter having arrived in Nebraska in 1865. Jonathan Burbower came in 1889, and bought the H. M. Kellogg farm.

#### UNION PRECINCT

Among the pioneer residents of this precinct, whom the Sun compiler visited in 1897, we find the following: W. H. Lumberger came from Pennsylvania in 1879. Among those who also came during the decade of the seventies were: Earl Tuttle, from Wisconsin in 1874; James D. Snodgrass, from Pennsylvania, in 1875; J. F. Spotts came in 1875 and later moved to Orange, California; Robert Thompson, 1872; C. R. Walker, Wisconsin, 1872; George A. Field, 1873; Joseph Powell, 1875; Uncle Elisha Soward, 1872; David D. Snider, from Wisconsin, in 1879; Sarah E. Bush, widow of Charles Bush, who came in 1872, from Pennsylvania; S. E. Evans, from Iowa in 1873; H. G. (Gabe) Ocker came to Nebraska in 1872 and settled in Hamilton County, in 1879; M. R. Worthington, from Iowa, in 1872; J. S. Bickford, 1874; Aaron Fry, 1875; Owen McMahan, 1871; E. E. Snyder, 1878; W. H. Lee, from Iowa in 1873; George E. Jackett, in 1871; C. T. Torgeson, 1878; Thomas Howard, an old soldier, in 1872; William Townsley, as early as May, 1870; only the Waddles, Lauries, Sandy Salmon and McCann had preceded Mr. Townsley in this vicinity; William P. White, who came from Dane County, Wisconsin, in 1871; Samuel Kensingler, from Illinois, in 1870; Thomas Townsley, from Pennsylvania, in 1872; C. L. Valentine, from Iowa, in 1878; Moses Gaw, from Indiana, in 1872; James C. Hutchinson, 1873; Daniel Danielson, 1878; Elijah Criddle, from Iowa, 1874; Madison Hawkins, 1876; George N. Pierce, 1873; Henry Severson, 1872, and C. Knudsen, a Norwegian, who came in 1878.

Some of those who came in the following decade of the eighties and were still here in 1897 were Charles E. Hagemester; D. L. Hackett, 1887; Ernest Rarup, 1889, from Wisconsin; T. B. Cross, 1885; R. J. Barnett, 1888; Charles Thompson, 1887, from Wisconsin; Frank Purvines, 1888; Richard Giltner, from Wisconsin, in 1881; Daniel Gallentine, 1880; Z. R. Dummick, 1883. The remarkably long list of settlers of the seventies who remained in 1897, attest that Union Precinct was settled by a bunch of "good stayers," and the small list of the eighties, though not complete for that period, indicates that the earlier residents did not vacate very fast and make room for new arrivals by early migration.

#### ORVILLE PRECINCT

The settlement of this precinct began as early as 1866, with Jarvis Chaffee and George Hicks' arrival, and continued in earnest in 1868, with George Proud's arrival in February, followed in December of that year by John and Alexander Salmon, James Rollo and Frank Dickson. The survey of residents in 1897 who had been in the precinct since the decade of the seventies, indicates a complete settlement during that period, corresponding to the record of its neighbor to the west, Union Precinct.

Other very early arrivals in this precinct were, Philip E. Housel, who came from Wisconsin, and J. W. Swearingen from Illinois in 1870. The survey in 1897 found still living in this precinct of the very earliest arrivals Alex Salmon, Sandy Salmon and George Proud.

Of those who had resided in the district any great length of time there were then William Boyer, who came from Iowa in 1872; O. A. Hiatt, from Iowa in 1879; John Fairbairn, 1886; W. H. Kimer, from Iowa in 1880; Wm. Mercer, from Illinois in 1879; Alfred Dresback, from Wisconsin, in 1873; John Beat, also from Wisconsin, 1879, and David Beat, in 1873. Other residents of this precinct who came from Wisconsin in the years indicated were: N. H. Cline, 1872; George R. Kline, 1877; William Boag, 1873; James Cameron, 1867 and they were residing here thirty years later. Iowa was well represented by W. R. McKern, who came in 1875; J. B. Cain, son of G. W. Cain, deceased, who had arrived in 1872; A. J. Benson, son of Wm. B. Benson, 1872; D. W. Allen, 1884; J. A. Hunter, 1880; J. W. Stokesberry, 1872; F. M. Wilson, 1884, and E. E. Bird, 1875. From Illinois had hailed J. W. Woods, Pike County, 1879; William Mercer, 1879; John Lulow, 1872; John C. Lampe, 1875; J. W. Swearingen, 1870; S. C. Wineman, 1882; John Williams, 1880; Ed Huling, 1887, and from Indiana, W. G. Rieker, 1889. Other early settlers were Chris Kroger, 1871; H. W. Hart, from Michigan and O. W. Cass, from Oswego County, New York, in 1873; W. S. Patterson, 1884, and J. K. Hartnell, also from Michigan, in 1886, and William Stephens, in 1871, from Pennsylvania.

#### FARMERS VALLEY PRECINCT

In 1897, there were yet several of the original pioneers of Farmers Valley Precinct still living in this southeastern corner of the county. James Waddle, who had reached the county on January 5, 1867, from Wisconsin, preceded only by Chaffee and Hicks, in Orville Precinct, was still here. John Laurie, Jr., had succeeded his father, John Laurie, Sr., who came in 1869 from Wisconsin; Mrs. Catherine Brown, widow of John Brown, a sailor, who came from Wisconsin in 1866, and one of the first in the county, was here. Mrs. W. J. Stockham was on the old Joseph Stockham place, and James Rollo, who came from Wisconsin in 1868, had been preceded by only a half dozen or so in the county when he came with his team and \$500 from Wisconsin.

Early settlers of the seventies, still in the county, were, Uncle John Lupold, who came from Pennsylvania in 1871, as had Hiram A. Fever. C. C. Pelen came from Illinois in 1871. His father had built the first house in that part of the country, on the place where Dodds lived in 1897. Other early arrivals were Frances G. Smith, 1877; Jacob Harter, from Pennsylvania, in 1871; Fred H. Clark, from Vermont, in 1870, and from Russia had come George Fuhrer and Jacob Ochsner, in 1874; Henry Greiss, 1874; and from Illinois, Julius Klinkhardt, in 1884, and early in the eighties, Ole O. Strand, Michael Steffgen, and William Splinter, in 1882. From Wisconsin came Willis Van Meter, in 1879; John Reed, in 1877, and David Ely, in 1881. S. E. Moore, in 1881, from Iowa, and Alonzo Lewis, from Michigan, in 1872. James Beat came also from Wisconsin in 1876, and Tom Klumb, who came in 1873,



taught the first school in District Number One, and was County Clerk in 1878-9, and James W. Hunnell, ex-County Commissioner, was an early arrival in this precinct.

#### BEAVER PRECINCT

P. C. Culver came from Iowa in 1871; Paul Holm came from Denmark in 1882; August Stettner came from Sutton in 1882; James H. Anderson came from Wisconsin in 1872; Charles Regalean came from Wisconsin in 1871; John Collett came from Wisconsin in 1872; Fred Smith came from Illinois in 1873; Wm. Steele came from Iowa in 1873; David Huebert came in 1879; George F. Prosser came from New York in 1886; John Taylor came from Iowa in 1872; O. F. Arnold came from Pennsylvania in 1885; R. W. Powers came from Illinois in 1887; Frederick Castle came from Iowa in 1877; Stephen Pollard came from Iowa in 1870.

#### AURORA PRECINCT

Carl F. Huenefeld came here from Wisconsin in 1878; Ed. Preston came from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1872; Robert Graham came from Missouri somewhat later; L. B. Worthington came from Iowa in 1876; Wm. Catlett came in 1891; Charles D. Maranville came from Illinois in 1879; Andrew Oesch came from Illinois in 1888; M. M. Hagerty came from Warren, Illinois, in 1872, homesteaded a soldier claim; John H. Long came in 1871; W. H. Cox came in 1893 and bought out Ed Murry; B. O. Burgeson came from Illinois in 1870, bought and broke out railroad land; Alice Mather came from Illinois in 1888; Wm. Glover and S. N. Powers farmed very early in this township; George Broadbent came from Illinois in 1884; George P. Craft came from Iowa in 1884; Henry Newman and J. C. Oliver came from Kansas in 1879; E. R. Barton was an old-timer here; A. S. Nicholas, a carpenter, who owned a farm west of town; J. P. Bute had one of the best farms in the county; F. E. Valentine, old settler here, bought the D. R. Heist place; D. L. Toff came from Illinois in 1880; George C. Bute came from Pennsylvania in 1890; W. T. Ronan came from Illinois in 1887; James Aleck Wilson came in 1890; Wm. Jeffries came from Illinois in 1885; Wm. Schrock, on the old Whittlesey place, came from Fillmore County, Nebraska, in 1894; J. E. Hutsell came from Iowa in 1878; M. Hanawald came from Michigan in 1882, bought places of Widow Spafford and James Moore; G. W. Curry was on the Online farm; J. E. McBride came from Iowa in 1870; M. H. Severy came from Illinois in 1885; W. W. McCoy came in 1893; C. M. Sears came from Kendall County, Illinois, in 1883, and bought out N. P. Spafford, Wm. Hull and John Riley; W. H. DeWater came in 1883 from Van Buren County, Michigan; D. M. Hitta from Iowa in 1882, and E. J. Eggert from Princeton, Illinois, in 1879. In 1883 Albert Detamore from Illinois and August Scheveck came from Ohio; J. L. Grisel from Iowa, came the year before; M. T. Kerr, on the Joseph Kerr place, came also in 1882 from Pike County, Illinois, and Luther Bristol from Silver Creek, Michigan, in 1881, and bought out Russell Bristol. L. M. Wright came from Indiana in 1884 and bought out W. E. Brainard; Robert McConnell came to Aurora from Illinois in 1875. F. M.

Howard from Illinois bought out the L. G. Strickler place, coming here in 1889. Gilbert Johnson came in 1886 from Wisconsin. Henry Warner came in 1889, and in 1890 bought the Bergeson place. E. S. and O. C. Phelps came from Illinois in 1879.

#### HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Frank Wanek came from Wisconsin in 1873; P. M. McCarthy came from Iowa in 1878; C. E. Genoways came here in 1885 from Saunders County; E. E. Mighell came from Maryville, Missouri, in 1883; Henry A. Morris came from Iowa in 1885; Jacob Donner came here from Illinois in 1882; Agnes Hagey and Abraham Hagey came from Illinois in 1870; Joseph Mourer came from Illinois in 1881; Wm. Halane came from Illinois; J. B. Mourer came from Illinois in 1883; Henry Gimbel came from Illinois in 1889; W. E. Starbuck came from Illinois in 1884; Dan C. Huffman came here from Pennsylvania in 1875; M. T. Huffman and T. W. Huffman came from Pennsylvania; Christian Otto came from Illinois in 1890; Thomas Talish came from Wisconsin in 1897; Charles Gray came from California; M. Wagner came from Illinois in 1882; G. W. Smith came from Pasadena, California; John Garber came from Wisconsin in 1882; John Wanek and Charles Wanek settled near Giltner; W. F. Bobst came here in 1885; Milton Williams came from Peoria, Illinois, in 1872; Charles M. Juett came from Iowa in 1874; Charles Shanahan came from Benson Mines, New York, in 1891; John D. Potter came from Pike County, Illinois, in 1882; Andrew Saltzman estate place was being farmed by Joseph Saltzman; G. W. Norman came from Keane, Ohio; Joseph Omel came from Illinois in 1889; Ed. Williams came from Page County, Iowa, in 1882; W. P. Gardner came from Illinois in 1872, and took a soldier's claim; Daniel Krabiell came from Illinois in 1883; W. E. Cutts came from Wisconsin in 1876; George and Ed Cutts came from Wisconsin in 1877; Elizabeth Wright came from Wisconsin in 1873; U. V. Menzie came from Missouri in 1887; Jacob Barrick came from Illinois in 1873; W. H. Wright came from Wisconsin in 1872; the Mart Wheeler place was rented to Wm. Talbot and James Wright's place to Thomas Wright; James Garber came from Wisconsin in 1878; Silas Gray came from California; W. S. Mattern came from Fillmore County in 1885; Wm. Graham came from Wisconsin in 1877; Peggy Briggs came from Wisconsin in 1878; Owen Wright came from Wisconsin in 1872; Herman Mersch came from Germany in 1884; Peter Farney came from Illinois in 1888; Michael Murry came from Illinois in 1872. He died in 1895 and the heirs rented the place. Its improvements suffered in the 1890 Bradshaw cyclone.

#### DEEPWELL PRECINCT

S. O. Lanterman came from Illinois in 1883, B. J. McDannel came from Iowa in 1883, Martin Wunderlich came from Minnesota in 1879, Albert Cleal came from Illinois in 1880. Benjamin Wilson came to Nebraska in 1873, Pat Sullivan came from Chicago in 1879, John A. Marks came from Pennsylvania in 1872, David McKibben came from Iowa in 1884, John Marvel came from Illinois in 1882, Thos. Talich came to Nebraska in 1892, C. B. Huffman came

from Pennsylvania in 1883, Jas. W. Marod came from Illinois in 1883, R. A. Smith came from Maine, 1897, Lewis Sharp came to Nebraska in 1883, W. H. Turner came from Illinois in 1882, Henry Littler came from Illinois in 1872, W. Dearing came from Illinois in 1872, E. F. Mapes came from Illinois in 1879, W. H. Mapes came from Illinois in 1879, Henry Scheister came to Nebraska in 1888, John Schwarzentraber came from Illinois in 1888, Andy Cavett came from Illinois in 1883, J. B. Garrett came from Illinois in 1883, L. E. Otto came from Illinois in 1885, William McDonnell came from Montana in 1882, S. P. Marvel came to Nebraska in 1884, R. W. Randall came from Illinois in 1882, E. E. Eaton came from Iowa in 1878, Henry Falmlen came from Illinois in 1885, R. H. Peard came from Wisconsin in 1872, Vic. Rhenchand came from Wisconsin in 1879, G. B. Hierstead came from Michigan in 1883, G. L. Levee came from Iowa in 1873, R. N. James came from Wisconsin in 1873, Wm. Heavit came to Nebraska in 1893, Adolph Hilpert came from Illinois in 1885, Valentine Horn came from Illinois in 1881, August Baartz came from Illinois in 1886, Arthur Moeraft came to Nebraska in 1893, W. W. Cavett came to Nebraska in 1887, Jas. Kirkpatrick came from Illinois in 1881, A. E. Chapman came from Hall County, Nebraska, in 1883, Frank C. Putman came to Nebraska in 1872, B. F. Turner came from Illinois in 1882.

#### PHILLIPS PRECINCT

Of the settlers who came to Phillips Precinct in the decade of the seventies there remained in 1897, among others, J. W. Miller, who came in 1872 from Illinois; Daniel DeVore, in 1887 from Iowa; W. H. England, in 1877 from Indiana; George A. England, from Maryland in 1874, living on the home place of Samuel England, who died in the early nineties, and Hiram England, from Maryland in 1874, and that same year S. N. Lysinger came from Illinois; 1879 saw Henry England from Indiana, Eli Decker of Ohio and Romanzo Sharp from Illinois, George Crumrine came from Iowa in 1872, as did B. N. Miller from Illinois. Among the arrivals of the early eighties were J. M. Hunt from Iowa; D. F. Roach of Illinois in 1880; J. M. Wills, 1881; John Seanlon, from Ohio, 1882; Charles Wiles, 1883, from Illinois; W. J. Newell from Massachusetts in 1882, Charles Bergmark, 1882; M. V. Cummings, from Illinois in 1880; E. B. DeVore, 1882; Henry McCoy, 1880.

#### MONROE PRECINCT

Olans Anderson came from Illinois in 1882; Alexander Coleman came from Iowa in 1882; Robert Eyres came from Iowa in 1872; Frank Hansen came from Maryland in 1882; Robert Miller came from Iowa in 1871, and was practically the original permanent settler; Scott brothers, W. B., L. M. and J. M. came from Page County, Iowa, in 1882; W. O. Moore came from Iowa in 1883, and bought from George Pierce and Mose Phillips; Henry Short came from Illinois in 1874; Peter Lloyd came from Kansas in 1871; Frank Short came from Illinois in 1883; J. P. Cherry came from Iowa in 1881; C. H. Henthorn came from Illinois in 1884; David Lloyd came from Kansas in 1878; Fred Newberry

came from Illinois in 1881; John Hansen came in 1882; John Johnson came in 1883; Charles Akersen came in 1883; John Hansen came in 1881; A. L. Entretien came in 1886 from Illinois; A. J. Swanson came from Bureau County, Illinois, in 1882; Aaron Wiley came from Louisiana in 1879; C. W. Baldwin came in 1893; James W. DeVore came from Iowa in 1875; N. W. Peterson came in 1885; L. P. Wallaston came in 1893; A. J. Gustafson came from Chicago in 1881; Robert Stewart came from Illinois in 1872; Swan Anderson came from Princeton, Illinois, in 1883; Elias Olson came from Saundser County in 1881; Swan A. Stowell came from Iowa in 1885; Swan Youngquest came from Illinois in 1880; O. M. Scott came in 1892; J. D. Henthorn came from Illinois in 1885; D. E. Squier came from Illinois in 1888; J. V. Leymaster came to the county from Illinois in 1873; John Blixt came from Sweden in 1877; J. H. Piatt came from Illinois in 1889; Wm. Leviek came from Illinois in 1891; Oscar Berggren came from Chicago in 1883; P. Skokesburg came from Sweden in 1880; A. P. Moberg came from Illinois in 1885, but formerly from Sweden in 1871; the W. H. Streeter land was rented, also that of E. R. Verden of Princeton, Illinois, John Adams, Lincoln, Nebraska, and J. W. Eaton of Aurora; C. J. Berg came from Sweden in 1891; A. W. Clark of Papillion, Nebraska, bought the Olaf Swanson farm; W. M. Osborn came from Iowa in 1879; Andrew Nelson came from Saunders County in 1880; A. G. Fleming came from Chicago in 1883 and bought the McDonald farm; Claus Peterson came from Chicago in 1882; Swan N. Peterson came from Chicago in 1883; Mrs. Charles M. Squier, formerly Mrs. A. M. Guilford, came from Illinois; J. P. Howell came from Iowa in 1872; Alwin Sundburg came from Omaha in 1896; Adolph Ertergrin came in 1884; Hamilton Tivis came from Illinois in 1870; the Fred O. Peterson farm was rented to Wm. Nelson; K. P. Swanson came from Sweden in 1880, and to this county from Illinois in 1881; E. E. J. Hainer owned the Unzecker place in this vicinity; Alfred Gunnerson came from Sweden in 1867 and to Hamilton County in 1883; Emil Johnson came in 1889, bought of Oscar Gunnerson of Princeton, Illinois, who still owned land here in 1897; S. J. Hill came from Iowa in 1885; the Wm. Kee estate and Isaac N. Long had places rented out; George L. Sands came in 1884; P. T. Nelson of Boone, Iowa, rented his land to George Nelson; Henry Berggren came from Chicago in 1882; J. Magnuson came from Chicago in 1888; Catherine Nordgren (widow of John J. Nordgren) in 1897 was the largest holder of land in the county except the Bute estate; George Fowler, Frank Gustafson and Charles Anderson rented their places; A. Dahl came from Chicago in 1883; Wm. S. Long came from Seward County in 1880; John Ferguson, Jr., had P. M. Johnson as a renter; T. J. Graham came from Indiana in 1877; P. G. Hixon came from Ohio in 1872; J. D. May came from Iowa in 1883; Mrs. Carrie Guilford, John Jones, J. P. Bute and J. C. Wilson rented out their land in this locality.

#### GRANT PRECINCT

Thomas Smith came from Pennsylvania in 1883; Hans Bmdgard came from Iowa in 1881; A. E. Siekman of Aurora came from Illinois in 1880, and bought raw prairie; Lewis Bald came from Wisconsin in 1877; Peter Jacoby bought railroad land in 1878; E. L. Kemper came in 1884 from Wisconsin;

Wm. Childe came from Indiana in 1885; Joseph Damond came from Wisconsin in 1885; Carl Swanson came from Sweden in 1883; Isaac Neander came from Sweden in 1872; John Reed came from Iowa in 1886; John Pierson came from Lincoln in 1885; Wm. Mische came from Illinois in 1877; O. D. Shankland came from Indiana in 1880; Thomas Powell came from Indiana in 1882; D. D. Gaddis came from Illinois in 1888; I. S. Byers came from Pennsylvania in 1886 and bought out S. S. Sears; George Kemper came from Wisconsin in 1883; Wm. Cox came from Illinois in 1883; Fred Wolf came from Illinois in 1872; Joseph Fyfe came from Iowa in 1877; S. A. Purdy came from Illinois in 1881; Samuel W. Lantzer, Jr., came from Illinois in 1872; Joshua Isaac came from Illinois in 1879; Charles Robinson came from Illinois in 1880; Frederick McCarty came from Iowa in 1893; Samnel Gressly came from Illinois in 1871; D. F. Shear came from Illinois in 1882; James Lockhart came from Cass County in 1882; Frederick Coykendall owned a place in 23-11-6; Henry Bohn bought out Henry Liebhart in 1894; M. B. Mathews came in 1871; E. A. Spragne came from Illinois in 1882; Bert Foss came from Illinois in 1883 and bought out George Culver; L. F. Fye was one of the first settlers; B. F. Liebhart came from Illinois in 1881; W. W. Foss came from Illinois in 1884; J. S. Armstrong came from Illinois in 1882; D. H. Tunison came from Iowa in 1887; C. S. Leymaster came from Illinois in 1869, and H. H. Leymaster came in 1880; Rasmus Nelson came from Denmark in 1879; C. G. Peterson came from Russia in 1880; Mossilon Rechards came from Indiana in 1881; Stephen Rollins came in 1884; M. D. James came from Iowa, in 1872; Nelson Kutch came from Iowa in 1872; David Patriek came from Lucas County, Iowa, in 1872; Mr. and Mrs. (Moses) Foss came from Illinois in 1874; Mr. Foss died about 1894; Mose Phillips came from Pike County, Illinois; N. P. Spafford came from Adrian, Michigan, in 1870; Ben Fye came from Stevenson County, Illinois, in 1872; Frank Hammond came from Iowa in 1883; W. C. Hackenbary was a son of Jake Hackenbary, one of the earliest settlers.

#### VALLEY

James A. Wilson came from England in 1875; Frederick Harrison had come from England in 1873; Adam S. Leymaster came from Illinois in 1873; Christian Schluski came from Persia in 1874; Paul Strehlow came from Iowa in 1873; Joseph Klemper came from Illinois in 1881; Lewis H. Hansen came from Illinois in 1882; Amos Curtiss came in 1871; Albert Kemp came from sey came from Illinois in 1873; C. C. Ling came from Illinois in 1873; Andrew Sweedberg came from Iowa in 1883; Lewis E. Pillard came from Iowa in 1877; John Richards came from Indiana in 1880; Peter C. Olson came from Illinois in 1881; Rev. A. W. Harney came from Illinois in 1883, bought of J. M. Cox; John Stripling came from Germany in 1872; Samuel Hogg came from Illinois in 1882; Amos Curtis came in 1871; Albert Kemp came from Germany in 1881; R. L. Ahara came from Wisconsin in 1880; Diedrick Boach came from Seward in 1884; Herman Peetzke came from York County in 1879; Christian Wagner came from Illinois in 1872; John Vogt came from Fillmore County in 1879; Amos Moeller, son of Fred Moeller, came from Indiana in 1873; Peter Peterson came from Illinois in 1881; R. Peterson came from Illinois in 1883; H. P. Christensen came from Illinois in 1881; Robert Hankel came

from Seward County in 1873; Frederick Klute came in 1884; Wm. Klenker came from Iowa in 1880; August Werth of this county came from Germany as early as 1867, and Wm. Moeller came from Germany in 1874; Hans Larson came from Illinois in 1890; John E. Hendrickson came from Illinois in 1875; Tom Fagan came from New York in 1877; J. K. Strohm came from Illinois in 1885; Charles Johns came from Illinois in 1885; Charles Smith came from New York in 1875; Wm. Sprague came from Iowa in 1893, bought the Gabe Ocker place; Hans Gibson came from Illinois in 1881; John Olson came from Iowa in 1884; Peter Christensen came from Denmark in 1874; Nels Christensen came from Denmark in 1877; Knute Henriksen came from Denmark in 1872; P. Peterson came from Denmark in 1879; Wm. Eberhard came from Russia in 1874; Andres Morgenson came from Illinois in 1872; Jens Madsen came from Chicago in 1878; A. P. Henriksen came from Illinois in 1870; Frederick Wandersee came from Wisconsin in 1880; John Panitz came from Wisconsin in 1877; Mrs. Louisa Rhode came in 1872; Fred Schell came from Lincoln, Illinois, in 1875; Robert Fentser came from Wisconsin in 1873; August Zierott came from Illinois in 1871; Carl W. Zierott came from Illinois in 1870; Henry Kath came from Iowa in 1871; John Hansen came from Michigan in 1872; R. E. Mason came from Wisconsin in 1881. Hans J. Johnson came in 1880 from Wisconsin. He bought out Fred Larson. John R. Cooper came in 1885 from England to Illinois and then on out to Hamilton County. Nels Bartelson came from Denmark in 1879. Lars Eskildsen came to the county in 1877. Andrew Hansen came in 1879 from Denmark. C. Hansen also came from Denmark, in 1880, and bought railroad land here. John Rau came in 1879 from Germany and like many others bought railroad land.

#### OTIS PRECINCT

H. H. Shrader came in 1879; Hans Nelson came from Omaha in 1881; Sorn Peterson came from Denmark in 1882; Nels Hansen came from Minnesota in 1881; Mads Madsen came from Illinois in 1873; H. P. Madsen came from Illinois in 1870; Wm. Sales came from Michigan in 1874; Martin Kohtz came from Illinois in 1872; Herman Budnick from Wisconsin in 1875; August Dobberstein came from Germany in 1873; W. J. Wilhelmson came from Iowa in 1878; Frank M. Hilligas came from Indiana in 1884; C. M. Knutzen came from Wisconsin in 1880; Mrs. Lucy A. Whittmore came from Iowa to a homestead here in 1871; A. P. Petersen came from Illinois in 1878; N. M. Garwood came from Illinois in 1881; Henry Mahnkin came from Missouri in 1887; Wm. Hausten came from Illinois in 1879; Michael Young came from Ohio in 1873; A. R. Brownell from Canada in 1873; J. B. Wessel came from Illinois in 1882; J. T. Voorhes came in 1889; Frank Fenster came in 1887; Henry Smith came from Illinois in 1879.

#### SOUTH PLATTE

J. W. Otis came from Ohio in 1873 and was about the first settler in this locality; David L. Hixson came from Ohio in 1876; Parcels Willis came from Ohio in 1875, took a soldier's homestead; Sylvester Hickman came in 1872 from Iowa; Joseph Warneka came from Freeport, Illinois, in 1877, on his way to the western gold fields and like many others got stranded, stopped over

and stayed here; Eric Wilson came from Sweden in 1882; Wm. Zingham came from Wisconsin in 1877; Rine Raymore came from Wisconsin in 1877; J. M. Peterson came from Chicago in 1883; M. Kay came from Illinois in 1882, bought of J. D. Hickman; Frederick Herbig came from Illinois in 1879; John Carl came from Illinois in 1873; Daniel Frye came from Illinois in 1872; Otho and Albert Carlson came from Illinois in 1889; E. A. McReynolds came from Pennsylvania in 1890; Charles Medike came from Freeport, Illinois, in 1879; B. F. Bossingham came from Illinois in 1887; Reuben H. Line came from Maryland in 1884; James F. Adams came from Iowa in 1873; Hiram Decker came from Iowa in 1879; John T. Lower came in 1873; C. H. Parmale & Co. of Pattsmonth with D. E. Seiver as local partner or manager at Marquette, bought land here; D. E. Seiver came out from Cass County, Nebraska, in 1892; Joseph M. Shaneyfeldt came from Pennsylvania in 1884; James Laurie came from Philadelphia and was a very early resident in this locality; Alexander Power came from Iowa in 1883; Frank W. Karr came from Iowa in 1883; J. W. Herbig came from Germany in 1867; Joseph A. Schertz bought the J. W. Cowley place, coming in 1892; J. M. Ward came from Iowa in 1870; Peter Larson came from Illinois in 1882; Ernest Stackerman came from Illinois in 1872; M. Leibhart came from Illinois in 1872; R. A. Hiatt came from Illinois in 1871; Zach Larsen came from Davenport in 1881; Peter Peterson came from Wisconsin in 1887; Chris Fedderson came from Illinois in 1881; Nels Anderson came from Michigan in 1877; Hans Peterson came from Merrick County in 1881; Rasmus Peterson, a B. & M. employe, bought an eighty adjoining the village of Marquette; Peter Hedblom came from Sweden in 1865; John Hobert came from Seward, Nebraska, in 1879; George Western came in 1873; J. T. Burden came from Wisconsin in 1886; Andrew M. Johnson came in 1881; Aaron Eichelberger came from Ohio in 1886 and bought out James Thomas; J. P. Jones came from Seward in 1873; Cal Wilson came from Illinois in 1877; Ed Nugent came from Illinois in 1872; H. P. Johnson came from Illinois in 1885; P. L. Peterson came from Illinois in 1877; R. Cox came from Illinois in 1883, for some time was agent for a grain commission house, but had an eighty adjoining the townsite of Marquette.

#### BLUFF PRECINCT

In this northeast corner of the county the editor found Andrew Bush, who came from Indiana in 1873; W. A. Milsap came from Iowa in 1872; L. P. Larson came from Wisconsin in 1879; Jacob Thompson came from Illinois in 1883; A. B. Buck came from Wisconsin in 1882; H. J. Perrel came from Indiana in 1875; Claus Anderson came from Illinois in 1884; Sam Rollins came from England in 1871; Robert McMurrin, Sr., came from Iowa in 1873; Peter Jacobsen came from New York in 1879; Wm. H. Schertz came from Illinois in 1891; J. T. Martel came from Wisconsin in 1869; Charles Fenster came from Wisconsin in 1872; Jacob Hansen came from Texas in 1879; James Hilligas came from Indiana in 1873; A. B. Nissen came from Denmark in 1874; Jacob N. Busk came in 1875; Andreas Nissen came from Denmark in 1882; John Nissen came from Illinois in 1873, from Denmark in 1871; A. P. Hoegh came from Texas in 1872; Hans Lagoni came from Illinois in 1890; Nels H. Anderson came

from Wisconsin in 1878; M. W. James came from Iowa in 1883; C. Jensen came from Wisconsin in 1886; Thomas Kuntsen came in 1880; Charles Rasmussen came from Denmark in 1881; H. J. Olsen came from Denmark in 1882; A. F. Samnelson came from Illinois in 1885; Frank Gion came from Wisconsin in 1873; S. A. Swanson came from Minnesota in 1887; Peter Christenson came from Wisconsin in 1882; Isaac Lampshire came from Wisconsin in 1879; L. C. Anderson came from Denmark in 1882; J. H. Widder came from Ohio in 1879; M. Castle came from Illinois in 1876; John Stranberg came from Iowa in 1879; Wm. Campbell came from Iowa in 1873; John Jackson came from Iowa in 1883; Lars Lindstrom came from Iowa in 1879; Charles Osterman came here from Massachusetts in 1883, bought railroad land; Carl Hahn came from Iowa in 1882; E. W. Hahan, C. P. Hahn, Ed. Austin, David Wildman and Samuel Clayton owned land in this vicinity; S. W. Bottorf came from Sarpy County in 1892; S. A. Nyborg came from Pennsylvania in 1877; John Bangson came here from Pennsylvania in 1878; John Nicholson came from California in 1879; Charles Lindahl rented some of Letzenburg's land; Isaac Benson rented out his land; Alfred Carlson came from Illinois in 1886; J. R. McMurrin came from Iowa in 1872; August Randolph came from Illinois; Henry Rasmusson came from Wisconsin in 1877; Mrs. Sophia Jones came from Iowa in 1881; H. O. Failing came from Michigan in 1878; C. Ueckert came from Missouri in 1879, and bought railroad land; John Wagner came from Illinois in 1873; P. M. Johnson came from Pennsylvania in 1877; Newton Nason came from Illinois in 1877; John Litzenberg came from Iowa in 1882; J. M. Hewitt came from Iowa in 1882; John Swanson, H. C. Hewett and Ira H. Wildman were landlords here; Mrs. Betsy Conner came from Iowa in 1881; D. C. Bjorkman and Nelson Bangson came from Pennsylvania in 1878; Andrew Erickson came from Iowa in 1873; Chas. J. Swanson came in 1874; Peter Erickson came from Iowa in 1873; Alex Lyon bought of his father, O. P. Lyon, who came here from Minnesota in 1878; John Larson came from Illinois in 1881; E. A. Naffziger came from Illinois in 1893; George Cohagen came from Seward County and formerly from Iowa in 1877; Thomas Timmons came here from Iowa in 1874; L. P. Jones came from Sweden in 1884; P. A. and C. O. Erickson rented of their father, Peter Erickson; Mrs. Johanna Reed came from Sweden; John Benson came from Iowa in 1872; H. C. Page, York, E. B. Whittaker, Central City, rented out their land; W. H. Dizney came from Kentucky in 1895; Hiram B. West came from Missouri in 1881; M. W. Foster came from Seward County in 1885; A. L. Streeter came from Iowa in 1890; I. N. Shenk came from Saunders County in 1879, bought railroad land; Rudolph Reckenberger came from Indiana in 1890; August Larson came from Illinois in 1883; Geo. W. Grosvenor came from Iowa in 1872; John Joseph came from Polk County in 1893; Chas. S. Anderson came from New York in 1878.

#### THE STORY OF THE CENSUS

The Federal Census tells for Hamilton County the very common story of the past two decades in this agricultural country. It reflects the growth of the city of Aurora, and towns such as Hampton, Marquette, Phillips, Stockham



and Giltner, while ten or eleven precincts, especially all of those not including an incorporated town, show a decrease.

This does not speak with reflections against the county as a whole. When one considers the increasing use of farm-power machinery, self-operating equipment, trucks, tractors and motor cars, one can readily see where fewer people could till the same amount of land and farm the same aggregate acreage than formerly was required.

Minor civil division.	1920	1910	1900
Hamilton County .....	13,237	13,459	13,330
Aurora precinct .....	592	689	674
Beaver precinct .....	638	674	784
Bluff precinct, including Hordville village .....	759	615	619
City precinct, co-extensive with Aurora city .....	2,962	2,630	1,921
Deepwell precinct .....	537	588	631
Farmers Valley precinct .....	617	636	664
Grant precinct .....	543	605	746
Hamilton precinct .....	491	553	673
Monroe precinct .....	663	651	801
Orville precinct, including Stockham village.....	760	790	755
Otis precinct .....	682	735	750
Phillips precinct, including Phillips village .....	586	619	590
Seoville precinct .....	458	515	642
South Platte precinct, including Marquette village .....	976	1,043	929
Union precinct, including Huntington village (P. O. Giltner) .....	898	970	943
Valley precinct, including Hampton village .....	1,075	1,022	1,075
Cedar Valley precinct .....	...	124	133
Incorporated place.	1920	1910	1900
Aurora city .....	2,962	2,630	1,921
Hampton village .....	457	383	367
Hordville village .....	191	...	...
Huntington village (P. O. Giltner) .....	387	410	282
Marquette village .....	305	290	210
Phillips village .....	274	274	186
Stockham village .....	239	189	169

## CHAPTER III

### REMINISCENCES OF PIONEER SETTLERS

OLD SETTLERS REMINISCENCES—NARRATIVE BY MRS. BRAY—NARRATIVE BY JOHN HARRIS—NARRATIVE BY MRS. CAMERON—LAST PAWNEE HUNT, BY L. ISAMAN—LIFE AMONG PLAIN INDIANS, JAMES MOONEY—DEATH AND BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT MILLER—OBITUARY, LANA A. BATES—STORY OF HOW GENERAL DELEVAN BATES WON HIS STAR—THE BLACK REGIMENT—WHERE ARE THE OLD SETTLERS? (MRS. LORA I. RUSSELL).

#### OLD SETTLERS' REMINISCENCES

In 1915 the Aurora Republican prompted a series of contributions from old settlers and former residents of the county, which are invaluable and much more far-reaching than their original intended purpose. The story of the early days, told in their own language, whether flowery or not, by those who actually underwent the experiences, and while they are still with us, far outstrips the compilation of members of a later generation.

The first one of these reproduced here related to pioneer experiences and was prepared by Mrs. Bray. Therein she tells about the Sioux raid, and five children being stolen and two murders committed by the savages in the summer of 1867.

#### NARRATIVE BY MRS. BRAY

As I have been requested by several friends to write again and tell of some of the incidents of the early days in Hamilton county, I will jot down a few as I remember them. Most of the letters I have read begin in the '70s, so I will have to begin further back. When we came in May, '67, there were only a few families here, Jarvis Chaffee and wife and George Hicks and wife. They lived at the forks of the river, two or three miles west of Stockham. East of us two and one-half miles, in York county, were three families, Mr. Henderson, Dan George and R. Fairbank. West of Grand Island and on the Platte were five or six families. South of us about thirty miles were a few settlers on the Little Blue. There was not even a footpath after we left the old freight road. There were no trees only along the streams. As far as eye could see it was one endless view of prairie. The grass grew in bunches. Every now and then a drove of antelopes would jump up and run away.

We went on our claims the first day of June, 1867. We drove our wagons near the river. The next morning as my sister-in-law and I were by the covered wagons fixing things up, just across a little gully came the blackest elk I have ever seen. It was as much surprised as we were and stopped and looked at us, then turned and ran the other way. We told the men when they came that

they could catch it as it was tired out, as it ran with its tongue out, but we learned afterwards that was a habit they had.

In those days there was but little rain, but the 10th of June there came a regular downpour. There was nothing to keep the water back and it all came down the hills and gullies and caused a terrible rise of the river. The men folks used a wagon box for a boat.

The 8th of July my brother's boy was born, he being the first child born in Hamilton county. About the 24th of August a small band of Sioux Indians made a raid on the settlers on the Little Blue and captured a boy and girl belonging to a Polander. They took the boy a short distance and killed him and left him lying in the bushes, but took the girl with them. When they got to the settlement west of Grand Island they shot and killed Mrs. Graham. She had a babe in her arms and a little boy 2 or 3 years old. They left them by the dead mother and went on to Mr. Campbell's. There they destroyed all they could and took two small boys, a small girl and two young women prisoners. The small girl got away and hid in the oats field. Then they went on and joined the tribe at North Platte. Afterwards government bought the five, and they came back.

The Polander left the Little Blue and went to Columbus after his children were stolen. When his girl came back she told where the boy was killed and she and her father went and got the boy's bones and took them to Columbus. They stayed over night both going and coming at James Waddle's.

Jessie Campbell married Charlie Land and they visited us and she told us all about her life with the Indians.

When my mother died the last of August, 1867, we thought we would have to take a wagon box to make a coffin, but E. D. Copey had come here and taken a claim and bought some lumber to make a door and some window frames. He let us have that and Mr. Henderson made the coffin and my father and I lined it.

Mr. Waddle and Uncle John Brown came in June, but they stayed at the Jack Stone ranch east of York. They had bought the improvements and had some crops in there.

We bought a cow down at Beaver Crossing, had her two months and she got in the sod corn and ate too much and died. There were no pigs or chickens to be bought at any price. We had been here a year and a half before we got hens, then we got four.

The first New Year's day we were here the settlers all met at Mr. Fairbanks and had a picnic dinner. We took the door off the hinges to make the table big enough. The weather was like summer, the children were barefoot.

That winter small bands of Pawnees came and camped on the river to hunt and trap. They made us many visits and begged for everything they saw. In the fall of 1868 nearly all the tribe had been south hunting. They got in a fight with the Sioux. They came north and drove the buffaloes ahead of them. The whole country south of the Blue was alive with buffaloes. The Pawnees had killed a Sioux and brought his scalp with them, and had it fixed up on a long pole. The tribe divided when they got to the Blue. Part of them camped on the forks and the rest on a small creek east of us.

Mr. Bray caught a young buffalo about two months old. The Indians wanted to kill it, they said it was "their cattle." We kept it a year, when a man riding horseback from Lincoln to Kearney came up the Blue. The buffalo was used to

following the horses and when the man rode along it followed his horse and he shot it. He said he thought it was a wild one.

In 1868 a man came riding from Grand Island across to the Blue. He said he had been chased by Indians and that they were coming down the river. Mr. Chaffee came down and told the settlers along the river. The men decided they would go and drive them back. While they were getting ready the women gathered up lead and molded bullets. Nine men started and rode up the river and on west but found no Indians, so camped until the next morning. Part of them came home and the rest went on to the Martin settlement west of Grand Island. They found that there had been Indians there and they had had an eight-hour fight with Martins and others, and had been driven away. Since we have wondered many times what we women and children would have done if the Indians had come in on us after the men had gone.

In 1869, if I remember right, government gave us a postoffice but would not give us a carrier, so the soldiers hired a carrier. We got our mail from McFadden, now called McCool. Each year brought more settlers and by 1870 we began to think we were old settlers. By that time a number of families had settled on the Blue and on Beaver Creek, and it didn't seem so much like a desert. There were some things to be bought near home and we didn't have to go to Nebraska City for a paper of pins or a box of matches, as Lincoln was only 75 miles away.

In those first years we saw many hard times, and did without many things we would have been glad to have had. All were neighbors in every sense of the word. In 1869 and '70 we had preaching in the houses that were large enough to hold the people. A preacher from Turkey Creek came every two weeks. In 1870 we had our first Fourth of July celebration. D. A. Seovil had just come to Hamilton county and he delivered the oration. The settlers on Beaver Creek came over and we had a jolly good time. I have the first flag staff used in Hamilton county. When my brother went to North Dakota he gave it to me. He said he didn't want it any longer I could put it in the historical rooms at Aurora.

Nearly all of those first old settlers have gone to the great beyond, but they left behind them a country to be proud of, one that more than compensates for the privations they endured in those early days.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs. C. M. BRAY.

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#### ON OLD TRAIL.

JOHN HARRIS ESTABLISHED DEEPWELL RANCH

OLD SETTLER IN COUNTY

ONE WHO WELCOMED SCOTCH COLONY 1867 RETURNS TO SCENES OF HIS YOUTH.

Many requests have come to the Republican during the past few weeks for a continuation of the old settlers reminiscences which proved so popular a feature during the summer. By a fortunate circumstance a contribution from John Harris, probably the first white settler in Hamilton county (surely the oldest survivor), is secured as the first installment of the new series.

Mr. Harris, whose present home is in Vollran, Colo., is here with his wife and granddaughter, Miss Esther Harris, on a visit to the scenes which he knew well when human habitations were few and far between. He is a native of Georgia, 77 years of age, a veteran who saw four years of hard service in the Confederate army, was taken prisoner at the siege of Atlanta and, when released at the close of the war, came west to grow up with the country and established the overland station known as Deepwell ranch in 1865. Minus the gentle southern accent which manifests itself, his story follows:

"I was born and raised near Atlanta and upon the outbreak of the war enlisted in the First Georgia Infantry for 12 months. After a short rest following my discharge I re-enlisted in the Thirty-sixth Georgia and served three years more, being captured by Sherman's troops when Atlanta fell. I was sent with other prisoners to Camp Douglas, near Chicago, where I was held until the war closed in the spring of 1865 and then, with a comrade by the name of Alf Blue, came directly to Nebraska.

"We caught a wagon train at Nebraska City and decided to stop near the Platte river and establish a ranch, or station which was needed at this point. We built a big sod house and barn and dug a well 65 feet deep. For want of a better name we called it 'Deepwell ranch.' The barn was half dug-out and half sod and was capable of holding 165 head of horses. The men who accompanied the wagon trains generally camped outside but we often had twenty-five in the house at one time. We were never lonesome, for the trains were passing constantly between Nebraska City and Denver and Salt Lake City. One was nearly always in sight, either coming or going. Our nearest neighbors were the Milspaugh ranch, 14 miles east, and John Brown's ranch, 11 miles west, those being about the distances of a day's drive for a heavily loaded wagon train. I have not yet been able to locate the exact site of Deepwell ranch, but hope to do so before I leave.

"We remained at Deepwell for two years and then abandoned it. I hired out to John Brown to put in a crop for him on Beaver Creek near the York County line in the spring of 1867. I did not take the trouble to plow but scratched the seed into the sod and raised 35 bushels of corn to the acre and a whopping big crop of oats. In June of that year the Scotch Colony, headed by James Waddle and James Cameron, arrived from Wisconsin. They stopped at the Brown place and the night of their arrival Jennie Waddle was born.

"Soon after I homesteaded what is known as the old Laurie farm on the Blue, but only remained there one year. I chopped wood two years for the Union Pacific Railroad, which had just been built through, and helped put up the first bank building in Grand Island for Koenig & Wiebe. There were only three or four houses in town at that time.

"I returned to Hamilton county soon afterwards and took a pre-emption near the present site of Stockham, remaining in that vicinity for about 30 years when I removed to Hitchcock county. Eleven years later I located in Colorado and am still there. I have raised six children, all living. My wife is a stepdaughter of Israel Gibbons, a well known settler who lived about 8 miles southeast of Aurora in the early days.

"The first election in Hamilton county was held at my house (a 'halfbreed dugout') on the Blue. I don't remember the year nor the number of votes cast.

but I gave every man in the county his dinner. Norris Bray, Will Young and Billie Worth were elected commissioners, J. D. Wescott county clerk, Joe Stockham sheriff and myself county surveyor. I laid out the county seat of Orville shortly afterwards.

"Indians and buffalo? Lord bless you, the prairies were alive with them. My first experience with the redskins was when the Sioux raided the Campbell place about 25 miles up the Platte and carried off four children. Bob Henderson, C. O. Wescott and myself went up to help the settlers and were charged \$1.50 each for a night's lodging by a man named Burgess. That made us so mad that we swiped half a dozen of chickens, some 'wagon dope' and a few other things that we could carry and came home.

"We had some exciting buffalo hunts, too. I well remember getting lost within 300 yards of my camp on one of them. All kinds of game were plentiful and we never lacked meat.

"Just before we left Deepwell a Mormon wagon train of 83 sixmule teams passed through on its way to Utah under command of Brigham Young, Jr., with 500 Swedish converts who had just arrived from the old country. It was one of the most impressive sights I ever saw.

"No, I have never been back to Georgia," concluded Mr. Harris in a response to a question as he arose to go. "Why should I? My home was in the direct line of Sherman's march to the sea and there was nothing left for me to return to. The only members of my family left when I last heard of them were my mother, a sister and brother, and I have never been able to locate them since the war. I suppose they are all dead long ago."

Mr. Harris went to Stockham yesterday to meet his old friends in that vicinity but will visit Aurora again before returning to Colorado. He is a remarkably well preserved man for his years, but his appearance and conversation bear indisputable witness to the fact that he has passed through a remarkable career.

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#### REACHED BLUE IN '67.

##### MRS. CAMERON TELLS OF EARLY DAYS IN NEBRASKA BOB LAMONT'S COURTSHIP

MADE GOOD USE OF HIS TIME ON JOURNEY FROM WISCONSIN AND WON A BRIDE

Next Monday, June 14th, will be the 48th anniversary of Mrs. Anna E. Cameron's arrival in Hamilton county—and she still lives hale and hearty, in the village of Stockham one mile east of the homestead on which she and her husband then settled. Three pioneer women of that section, Mrs. C. M. Bray, Mrs. Martha Land and Mrs. Cameron, have furnished exceedingly valuable contributions concerning the first settlement in Hamilton county, but Mrs. Cameron appears to hold the palm for being the oldest continuous resident. Her story told with marked Scotch accent, loses much of its charm in the cold reproduction of print:

"We came from Dane county, Wisconsin—my husband, James Cameron, my eight-months old baby, Thomas and myself—driving through with the James Waddell family," said Mrs. Cameron to the Republican recently.

“Mr. Waddell and Uncle John Brown had come out the previous January and arranged to put in a crop, leaving John Harris in charge of the place. We all made headquarters at the Waddell home until we could locate our claims, but it was not long until Mr. Cameron secured the southeast quarter of a section 26-9-6 and we went to ourselves. We lived that first summer in our covered wagon, but managed to get a dugout finished, in addition to raising a crop, before cold weather set in, and we lived underground for three years. We then built a log house which lasted us for a long time.

“We were many weeks on the road from Wisconsin to Nebraska, and the experience was as strange as it was delightful to us. We crossed the Missouri river on a ferry at Nebraska City, and I remember that one of our cows got seared and jumped overboard. A young man by the name of Robert Lamont was in the party and he paid marked attention to Mr. Waddell's daughter Mary during the trip. This romantic courtship was consummated in their marriage October 20, 1867, and the Lamont family became one of the most prominent in our neighborhood. Mr. Lamont was our first postmaster. Among our earliest neighbors I recall Cyrus Wescott, Jarvis Chaffee and ‘Uncle Davey’ Henderson. Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Waddell were sisters. Our first Fourth of July was spent at Henderson's and the men celebrated by shooting an antelope.

“There was no railroad nearer than Nebraska City except the Union Pacific, and as the Platte was generally impassable supplies had to be hauled long distances. Our hauling was all done from Nebraska City the first year or two and we paid \$9.00 per hundredweight for flour, 5 dollars for corn meal and 40 cents a pound for bacon. However, there were plenty of buffalo, elk, deer and wild turkeys and we lived well. We had good crops in the first few years. Some of the finest potatoes I ever saw—and even got a thrifty orchard started. Everybody was friendly and we had many good times, always making it a point to share our game, even if it was nothing more than a wild turkey.

“There was an occasional Indian scare, but we were never molested. I remember particularly the raid of 1867, when the Sioux crossed the Platte near Lone Tree, killed a woman and baked her baby in the oven of the cook stove. This was the same time that they kidnapped four children from the Campbell home near Grand Island and shot a little boy because he cried. The other children were recovered through the assistance of the United States Government.

“Great herds of buffalo roamed the prairies when we first came, and I recall a terrible fright they gave Mrs. Lamont and myself one day when we were alone at home. I thought they would surely trample us into the earth, but the herd divided before it reached the house.

“In the fall of 1868 about 4,000 Winnebagoes and Pawnees camped about three quarters of a mile west of our place. They were returning from the war path and carried five Sioux scalps which had been taken in battle. They remained five days and had a war dance every night—one for each scalp. We were afraid of them at first, but soon found that they were harmless. One time Mr. Chaffee brought a party of 13 Indians to our house just after dinner was over. I set out some bread, butter and sorghum for them and then offered them some milk. One big warrior refused it with disgust, saying: ‘Naw, me no calf.’ They were always begging for ‘firewater’ but we were careful to see that they did not get it.

"I think the first religious service ever held in the county was at the Robert Lamont home sometime in 1869. A United Brethren minister by the name of Caldwell preached. It was about that time I was converted. At an experience meeting recently I said that I was born in Scotland and gave my heart to God while in mortal terror of Indians in a Nebraska dugout."

Mrs. Cameron is the mother of 14 children, 10 of whom are living (1915). Her oldest son, Thomas Scott, who came to Nebraska with her when 8 months old, is now employed by the street car company at Sioux City. Her husband died July 5, 1901. Mrs. Cameron still owns the original homestead and also 160 acres of railroad land which adjoins Stockham on the west.

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### LAST PAWNEE HUNT.

FORMER AURORA MAN FAMILIAR WITH THE FACTS.  
INDIANS EXPECTED FIGHT.

WENT PREPARED FOR TROUBLE AND BOASTED OF WHAT THEY WOULD DO  
TO THE SIOUX

Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 14, 1916.

(Editor of the Aurora Republican, Aurora, Nebraska.)

Dear Sir:

I failed to get the Republican dated February 3rd, and would be pleased to have you send me a copy of that date, as I was very much interested in the story of the last buffalo hunt of the Pawnee Indians, and it was to be continued in the February 3rd, number.

I well remember the time ('73) when they passed my place, five miles west of Aurora on the state road leading to the Platte. Knowing they were on a buffalo hunt, A. W. Howard, Ed Cooper and myself concluded our only chance to get buffalo meat would be to beat them to hunting grounds. In a short time we were on the way and passed them encamped on the Platte in the vicinity of the old bridge, ten miles south of Grand Island. This bridge all old settlers of '72 and '73 well remember, as we had to cross it to get to Grand Island to do our trading in those early days. After driving well past them we camped for the night. Quite a number of the young braves stayed around our campfire until late. We were on the road the next morning by sunup, but found a half a dozen Indians riding alongside our wagon on their ponies. Before long they offered to change places with us, which we did. They seemed to enjoy the wagon, but we soon asked them to ride their own ponies, of which we soon tired, riding without a saddle. We had a hard drive, but reached Lowell about noon (a station I think was discontinued). We made a further drive of twenty-five miles in the afternoon to what was then called Walker's ranch, and camped for the night. This was the second night. Whether the Pawnees crossed to the south side of the Platte we did not know, but it does not seem likely as there was no bridge short of Kearney. This being in June when the river was high. I think it very improbable, especially as there was a good road on the south side of the Platte to old Fort Kearney, and I think beyond. I see no reason why they should be on the north side and then cross at Plum Creek on the south again,



when it would lengthen their route and not have as good a road to travel, but I positively know they continued on the south side of the river to Lowell.

The few that stayed with us were armed with bows and arrows, so they must have known there were Sioux in the neighborhood, for they were continually boasting how they were going to do up their old enemies, the Sioux. I suppose they had other arms, but I don't remember seeing any. However, as there was a large encampment, and a great many tents, they may have had them inside. There were so many ponies we had to drive clear of them before we could lariat our horses without being interfered with by them. It seemed to me they must have had some 600 or 800 ponies, but as there was fine grass and water there was plenty for all.

After leaving Walker's ranch, we drove to Orleans and crossed the Republican, where we nearly drowned our horses, the river being high and swift, we could not keep their heads against the current to make a landing. We had a difficult time to get them out and up the steep banks, which we finally did alright, and found ourselves in the midst of buffalo, but as they were being chased by men on horseback we could not get near enough to get a shot on foot.

In the morning we drove toward the west, between the Beaver and Republican, where there were large herds and few hunters; they were comparatively tame and we certainly saw a thousand in one drove and ten or twelve herds on distant high points over the country.

While getting our buffalo we met six Sioux Indians whom I suppose were scouts looking for the Pawnees. We did not know there were any considerable party of them in the vicinity. Upon our arrival home we first heard of the massacre of the Pawnees by the Sioux. On the same grounds traversed in our buffalo hunt this battle occurred. We wondered that they would permit themselves to be surprised after bragging how they were going to get the Sioux, but they failed miserably and fought their last battle as a tribe. The government soon moved them to Oklahoma, where the remnant of the once proud Pawnee tribe may perhaps be found today.

L. Isaman,  
1130 W. 7th St.

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## LIFE AMONG PLAIN INDIANS.

JAMES MOONEY TELLS ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIFE AND OCCUPATIONS.  
WHAT THEY ATE AND HOW THEY WERE AMUSED.

The Indian is more than an Indian: he is a member of a tribe; and each tribe is practically a small, distinct nation, usually with a distinct language. In North and South America we have nobody knows how many tribes, because they never have been counted. We have at least a thousand different languages, putting it in another shape, we may say there are a thousand ways to say "dog" in Indian. In Europe there are not more than fifty languages, each unintelligible to those speaking the others. Most of these languages are still in existence, but some of them have been wiped out.

To go into detail of Indian life, as I have seen it, would take a long time. I might give you one or two days of the winter camp, and one or two days of the summer camp. It was customary, years ago, for the roaming tribes to stay out in the open prairie through the summer season. They scattered about, but generally camped near some convenient spring in the neighborhood of grass and timber. There parties from other tribes would come and visit them, sometimes hundreds together, and they would have a dance. The Kiowas now live in south-western Oklahoma. Anadarko, their agency, has now about six thousand people. When I first knew it, it had about fifty whites—agency employes, two or three traders, and a few missionaries—all the rest were Indians, but the Indians stayed there only a part of the time as a rule. Along late in the fall they would come down, one camp after another, all within a week or so, setting up their tipis close to Anadarko, in the timber along the bottom lands on the south side of the Washita river. Some of you have read General Custer's work, "My life on the plains," and will remember that he tells about the battles which he fought with the Cheyenne, Kiowa and other tribes in this part of the country.

In the winter tipis were set up and strung out from five to eight miles along the river. Sometimes around the tipi they would build a windbreak, made of interwoven brush. If the timber was pretty close, they did not need to make a windbreak. I first joined them in the winter camp and remember distinctly my first night there. The head man was presiding at the supper and dishing out soup and he asked me if I did not think it was good; but I was wondering how it was possible for anyone to eat it. The soup was made of jerked beef, cut into small pieces and cooked in salted water. With the soup they had bread, made by mixing flour with water and frying it in a pan over a hole in the ground. In the Indian sign language the sign for bread was this:—(indicating the smoothing of the cake with the hands). They call coffee "black soup."

Our family had two tipis, each sat up with twenty poles and with three beds around the circle inside. The old man had been one of the war chiefs in his best days, which gave him a reputation outside of his own tribe. He was known as one of their best story-tellers and master of ceremonies, and he was also a "beef chief" or distributor of the beef rations. He was the grandfather, and after we became acquainted he called me his son. He had three daughters and a son, all married, who with the husbands, wives and children made a family of sixteen, besides myself. The Indians were constantly visiting from one camp to another all the time, but we usually had one or two visitors to make up.

In the center of the tipi there was a hole in the ground for the fire, where the cooking was done, and the three beds were facing it. The bed consisted of a platform about a foot above the ground, covered with a mat of peeled willow rods laid lengthwise, and looped up at one end in hammock fashion. You may have seen some of these Indian bed platforms in museum collections. The bed is covered with buffalo skins and there is a pillow at one end. If you ever have a chance to see one of these beds and examine it carefully, you will find that each of the willow rods is fastened to the other in a very unique way, the narrow top end of one rod alternating with the thicker bottom end of the next rod, so as to preserve an even balance.

After dark we have supper, and then, when they are through telling stories and shaking the rattle, we go to bed.

In the morning one of the women gets up and, in winter, takes her bucket and ax and goes down to the river for water. If it is not too cold, she dips it up, if the river is frozen she has to break the ice. While she is about that her sister has brought in some wood and made the fire. They do not pile wood on as we do, but push the sticks endways into the fire. So arranged they give out a uniform heat. The tipi is very comfortable in winter, more so than most of the poorly built frontier houses. We had three women in our family besides the old grandmother. While one went after the water and the other after the wood, the third prepared the breakfast. They made bread hot for every meal, baking it in the pan, with tallow for grease. The regular ration issue every two weeks consisted of beef, flour, coffee and sugar. A few days after the rations were issued the meat which is eaten with it gives out, and then there is only flour and coffee. They use the black coffee, which is always made fresh. Sometimes they have sugar, but never cream. The Indian woman is as good a coffee maker as you will find anywhere. When breakfast is ready they spread out a piece of canvas or something of the kind in front of the bed platforms and set out on it the dishes and cups. They formerly used bowls and spoons. The food is divided and handed around by the woman who is the head of the household. After the meal is over a cloth is passed around for a napkin. When they have nothing else, I have seen them use dry grass tied up into a knot.

After breakfast they arrange the work for the day. The women look after the children and do the sewing. Their clothing is made of cheap calico or of buckskin, the latter being sewn with sinew taken from the backbone of the larger animals. Beadwork is done in the same way, the beads being strung on a sinew thread as a shoemaker handles his wax ends. While the women get to work, each man saddles his favorite pony and goes out to herd the range ponies. The Indian man's time is largely taken up with his pony. They are a worthless set of horses, usually, as very few of them are fit for heavy work, but they answer the riding purposes. They keep one pony tied near the camp to use in rounding up the others. It is hard for them to give up their horses. The man in whose family I lived had about forty. As they have no corrals, the ponies graze wherever they can find grass.

The children go out and play. When there is snow on the ground they slide down hill. Sometimes they have little darts to slide along on the ice. The young men practise arrow throwing. Three or four get together with arrows about four feet long—not the kind that they use for shooting, but an ornamental kind for throwing. One of them throws the arrow as far as he can, and then the others try how near to where the first arrow is sticking in the ground they can lodge their own.

About the middle of the day they have dinner, which is about the same as breakfast. In the afternoon, if not too cold, the women take their work outside the tipi. After sewing perhaps an hour or so, they think it is about time to play, and so they start up the awl game. They play this game mostly in the water. Upon the grass they spread a blanket, which has certain lines marked all around the edge, and a large flat stone at its center. There are four differently marked sticks, each one of which has a special name. They throw down all four sticks at once upon the stone and count so many tallies according to the markings on the sticks as they turn up. Each woman has an awl and as she counts a

tally she moves the awl up so many lines along the blanket. It sometimes happens that she scores a tally which brings her to the central line, when she is said to "fall into the river" and has to begin all over again. In this way they play until the game is finished, sometimes until early sunset when it is time to think about supper.

They usually have supper, when there is anything to eat, rather late and after dark. It is about that time when the Indian day really begins. When supper is nearly ready the old grandfather, sitting inside the tipi, which is open at the top, announces by raising his voice so as to be heard outside, that he invites certain of the old men to come and smoke with him. The announcement is carried all through the camp. Then the old men who have been invited get out their pipes and start for the first man's tipi, so that by the time supper is ready there are three or four old men of the tribe gathered together for the evening, all of them full of reminiscences and stories.

The father of the family—not the old man, but the father of some of the children—usually takes that time to give some of the children a little moral instruction. It is not generally known that the Indian father ever teaches his children about their duties, but he does, and it is usually done in that way and at that time, without addressing himself to any child in particular, and without any conversation in particular. Sitting there with his head down, without looking around, he begins a sort of recitation, telling the boys what they must soon be doing, and as men what might be expected of them. At another time the mother will tell the girls something to the same effect—what is expected of them now that they are growing old enough to know about these things.

Supper is a little more formal than the other meals, especially when there are visitors. During the mealtime not very much is said, but after it is over the old man who has invited his guests gets out his pipe and tobacco pouch, and they get out their tobacco and light their pipes. The ordinary Indian pipe is of red stem. It has a long stem, and there is a projection below the bowl, so as to rest it upon the ground, because when the Indian smokes he is sitting cross legged upon the ground, therefore the pipe is just the right length for this purpose. He lights his pipe and then raises it in turn to each of the cardinal points. On one occasion I remember one of the old men in our camp holding the pipe to the sky, and saying "Behabe, Sinti" (Smoke, Sinti), addressing a mystic trickster of the Kiowa tribe, of whom they tell many funny stories and say that at the end of his life on earth he ascended into the sky and became a star, so they offer their pipe to him in smoking at night. Immediately after saying this he raised his pipe to the sky again, and said, "Behabe, Jesus." (smoke, Jesus). When the pipe is lighted it is passed around, and each man takes a whiff or two and hands it on to the next, and so it goes around the circle. After it has gone a round or two they begin to tell of the old war times, just as grand army men tell stories of their war days. There are myths and fables, stories concerning warriors who have been noted for their bravery, and humorous stories which are told, usually by the old men, to amuse the children. Stories are told by the old men and games played by the children until late in the night, and then, one after another, they retire. Those who remain are assigned their places for the night and others going back to their own tipis, each one saying goodby, simply "I'm going out" and so closed one of the winter nights.

## FIRST CITIZEN SUMMONED.

ROBERT MILLER, LAST SURVIVOR OF ORIGINAL AURORA COLONY, DIES AT LONG BEACH—FUNERAL TO BE HELD HERE SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

A telegram received by C. S. Brown Tuesday morning announced the death of Robert Miller at Long Beach, California.

Mr. Miller went to California more than a year before his death. He had been in feeble health for a long time and suffered a stroke of paralysis the preceding winter that rendered him practically speechless.

Mr. Miller was probably the last survivor of the founders of the town of Aurora. At the close of the Civil war, in which he served gallantly, he returned to his home in Chariton, Iowa, with the idea of seeking a broader field further west. He was one of the eight men who organized a company in 1871 for the purpose of establishing a town in central Nebraska, having learned from a railroad surveyor of a promising location. David Stone was sent out on a reconnoitering expedition in March of that year and reported favorably. He returned in April with Miller, Nathan Thorp and Darius Wilcox, who dug a cellar in the bank of Lincoln Creek near the present site of the cemetery bridge. Mr. Miller took a soldier's homestead four miles northwest of Aurora, where his son John now lives. He also pre-empted the northwest quarter of section 4, thereby becoming one of the original owners of the Aurora townsite. Others who secured title from the government to portions of this section were David Stone, E. D. Preston, Darius Wilcox and R. W. Graybill.

The following story of his early experiences, as told by Mr. Miller was printed in the Republican about two years ago:

"Mrs. Miller and two children, Margaret (now Mrs. H. N. Bell) and John came out from Iowa in October, 1871. John Tweedy had an unplastered frame shanty just east of where C. M. Sears' home is now, and as he was going back east he permitted the Miller family to occupy it until they could prepare a house of their own.

"On the sixteenth day of November a terrific storm struck which continued for three days. All who went through it agree that it was worse than the famous blizzard of 1873. Mr. Miller reached home only a few minutes before the storm struck, having completed a house for Sidney Lounsbury at Shankland's corner that afternoon. But for his timely arrival the family would doubtless have perished. They suffered terribly with the cold the first night, and when morning came with no signs of the storm's abatement, Mr. Miller decided that desperate measures were necessary. The house was drifted almost full of snow, the loose weather-boarding affording practically no protection. There was an unfinished cellar underneath and he scooped enough snow out of this to give his wife and children shelter. A campfire was built in one corner, and there they remained for two more whole days and nights, living on black coffee, bacon and corn bread mixed with water and salt. Mr. Miller declares that his army experience was all that enabled him to save his loved ones on that terrible occasion."

Here is his story of how Aurora was named:

"David Stone proposed that the new town be named Aurora as a compliment to his wife, who was a native of Aurora, Ill. Thorp and Wilcox had different

ideas, but each had only one vote. Stone held two proxies and Miller one. Seeing no other way of breaking the deadlock, Miller cast his two votes for Aurora and is therefore entitled to the distinction of having named the town."

In addition to the two children brought with them from Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Miller raised two sons, Z. Q. Miller of Casper, Wyoming, and R. C. Miller of Livingston, Mont. Ray, their fifth child, died in infancy.

During his long and active career in this community, Robert Miller was an honored and respected citizen. Never ambitious for preferment, his official interest is confined to municipal affairs, having served for years as a member of the Aurora city council. He was long engaged in contracting and building, and many business houses in this city are the products of his handiwork. He was during the almost half-century of his residence here a citizen of the highest type, a gallant soldier who bore his honors modestly, and a pioneer who did a man's full share in reclaiming the wilderness.

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#### OBITUARY OF LANA A. BATES.

Lana A. Bates was born in the little hamlet of Carylville, county of Schoharie, state of New York, October 29th, 1859. Her parents were Zaehus and Polly Green. Her childhood days were pleasantly passed in rambling over the hills and through the valleys with which eastern New York is filled and her education was obtained in the little red schoolhouse under the hill.

Her personality developed into an attractive one and at the close of the Civil war she won the affections and was joined in marriage to Delevan Bates, who had won the rank of general on one of the battle fields in old Virginia. Together they came in 1873 to Nebraska and both for thirty years have worked hard to beautify what then was the native land as it came from the hands of the Creator.

Her husband's service in the great rebellion lead her into the work of the Woman's Relief Corps and when the Soldier's Home of Nebraska was organized she was selected by the governor of the state as one of the managing board. It was a wise selection for no pains nor expense was spared in perfecting herself in the work which in this appointment came to her.

Six different states were visited where such homes had been made to learn the best methods of management and when the Nebraska Home was opened the first rules for its government were formulated by her. For nine years she held the position of secretary or president of the managing board.

Her suggestions were never passed unheeded by the managing board and state officials always recognized her as good authority on all questions arising in regard to the home.

In other lines her opinions were also considered of value and Hamilton county can thank Mrs. Lana A. Bates for two important executive appointments during her life.

She was also appointed as one of the lady commissioners at the Columbian Exposition in 1893.

At home in private life she was ever a faithful worker in all things needed

to ameliorate the sufferings of humanity and all she desired when death came was to be "Remembered for what she had done."

She died April 18, 1902 of a complication of diseases induced by a severe attack of tachy-cardia which was seriously aggravated by a prolonged quarantine for smallpox and which terminated fatally with cardiac dropsy.

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### HOW DELEVAN BATES WON HIS STAR.

ENTERED BATTLE OF PETERSBURG A COLONEL AND CAME OUT A GENERAL WITH A BULLET THROUGH HIS HEAD.

"Into the pit of death charged the black regiment."

No braver feat was performed by the immortal three hundred on the field of Waterloo than that of the fourth division, ninth corps of the United States army, under command of Colonel Delevan Bates, at Petersburg, Va., on the 30th day of July, 1864. One man out of every three who participated in the assault upon the enemy's was killed or wounded, and Colonel Bates was shot through the head, escaping death by a hair's breadth. By his gallantry in that action he won a medal of honor and the rank of brigadier-general.

To hear the story at first hand of how an untrained volunteer in two short years earned the right to wear a general's star upon his shoulder straps is an experience that cannot often be realized by the present generation. Many friends of General Bates know in a vague way that he participated in some of the most important engagements of the Civil war with great distinction, but it was only by the most persistent cross examination that the Republican secured a fairly complete statement of his personal experiences at Gettysburg and Pittsburg.

When the war broke out the home of Delevan Bates was in the town of Worcester, Otsego county, New York. He helped recruit the One Hundred and Twenty-first New York Volunteers and was mustered in with that regiment August 18, 1862, as a second lieutenant. This regiment was assigned to the Sixth Army Corps, and was in its first battle at South Mountain, Md., September 14, less than four weeks after it entered service. It soon became known as one of the fighting regiments, and during the war lost 226 of its number (almost one-fourth) killed on the battlefield. At the accepted ratio of 3 men wounded to one killed, it is fair to assume that practically every man in this command suffered injury during his enlistment.

During General Joe Hooker's disastrous campaign of 1863, Lieutenant Bates was taken prisoner for 16 days. His capture was effected at Salem Church, just after the fall of Fredericksburg, when he and about 40 other men were surrounded by a superior force. Upon reaching Libby, in the city of Richmond, they joined between 3,000 and 4,000 other union prisoners who had been taken at Chancellorsville. Bates was well treated during his stay, but he was not sorry to leave when his exchange was effected after two weeks confinement. His name was the last one called in a list of several thousand prisoners, and a whole year elapsed before another exchange was made. By such a narrow margin he gained his liberty and an opportunity to win fame on the field of battle.

Rejoining his regiment just before the battle of Gettysburg, he participated

in a forced march in the race with Lee and reached Little Round Top during the second day's fight, just before Longstreet charged that position. When the rebels caught sight of the Greek cross which was the battle flag of the Sixth Army Corps, they halted and never renewed the assault. From his vantage point on Round Top, Lieutenant Bates had an excellent view of Pickett's famous charge. He declares that Rothermel's painting, made for the state of Pennsylvania at an expense of \$30,000, a copy of which may be seen at the Aurora public library, is a wonderful accurate reproduction of that terrible fight. A promotion to first lieutenant came to him at Gettysburg.

In 1864 congress passed a resolution to accept colored volunteers, but provided that their officers must be white men who had seen service in the field. Lieutenant Bates was examined for an appointment in February, 1864, and received his commission as colonel of the Thirtieth Regiment, United States colored troops, March 1st. On July 30th came the battle described in the accompanying paragraphs.

For weeks the Union forces had unsuccessfully assaulted the rebel works around Petersburg. Finally a tunnel was dug under the entrenchments and a plan was made to explode several tons of gunpowder. Through the gap thus made in the rebel line the works were stormed. The colored division of which Colonel Bates' regiment was a part was first chosen for its important duty, but the plan was changed on account of a fear that if the assault failed the commanding general would be censured for "sending the niggers into such a place." The weakest division in the corps was chosen by lot, and when the explosion gave signal for the assault it was repulsed. Bates' division was then ordered forward, and as ranking colonel he led the first regiment into "the crater" made by the explosion. This hole was about the size of a city block and was the grave of 250 men.

Several hours delay ensued in preparing for the second attack, and the enemy had recovered to a considerable extent from the almost complete demoralization which immediately followed the explosion. The black soldiers drove them out, however, and kept them out. Just as they were sitting down to rest a staff officer rode up to Colonel Bates with an order from General Burnside to charge a rebel battery on a nearby hill which was doing considerable damage to the union forces. In forming for this charge Colonel Bates gave his men the usual instructions to pay no attention to the wounded who fell until after the battery was taken. If that order had been obeyed his life would surely have been lost that day.

Just as the colored troops swept across a ravine they encountered a galling crossfire from 5,000 enforcements under General Mahone, and Colonel Bates fell with a 58-calibre Enfield ball through his head. The bullet entered his right cheek and passed out just behind the left ear. The variation of a hair's breadth in its course would have meant instant death. But worse danger was coming. Bitter prejudice existed among the confederates against colored soldiers and especially against their white officers. The confederate congress had, in fact, declared that no mercy should be shown them. Wounded officers in such cases were invariably killed by bayonet. But for the heroism of Bates' black soldiers, who carried him to safety, he would undoubtedly have met that fate.

October 11th he returned to duty and was given command of a brigade with



the rank of general, also a medal of honor for the work he did at Petersburg. In January 1865, his brigade was sent to North Carolina, where it joined General Sherman's army, General Bates' brigade remained at Beaufort, N. C., during the period of reconstruction and was mustered out in December, 1865. The distinguished veteran has for many years been a prominent citizen of Aurora, a familiar figure on the streets to many with little knowledge of the dramatic career through which he has passed, here briefly reviewed.

#### THE BLACK REGIMENT.

(The following poem was written by George H. Baker as a tribute to the courageous services rendered by the Thirtieth regiment, United States colored troops, at Petersburg. Colonel Delevan Bates, who had command of the colored troops, received a medal of honor and the star of a general for what his regiment did in this battle).

Dark as the clouds of even,  
 Banked in the western heaven,  
 Waiting the breath that lifts  
 All the dread mass and drifts:  
 Tempest and falling brand  
 Over a ruined land:  
 So, still and orderly,  
 Arm to arm, knee to knee,  
 Waiting the great event,  
 Stands the Black Regiment.

Down the long dusky line  
 Teeth gleam and eyeballs shine,  
 And the bright bayonet,  
 Bristling and firmly set,  
 Flashed with a purpose grand,  
 Long ere the sharp command  
 Of the fierce rolling drum  
 Told them their time had come,  
 Told them what work was sent  
 For the Black Regiment.

"Now," the brave colonel cried,  
 "Though death and hell betide,  
 Let the whole Nation see  
 If you are fit to be  
 Free in this land, or bound  
 Down like the whinnying hound,  
 Bound with red stripes of pain  
 In your old chains again.  
 Oh, what a shout there went  
 From the Black Regiment.

"Charge." Trump and drum awoke,  
 Onward the bondmen broke,  
 Bayonet and saber stroke  
 Vainly opposed their rush,  
 Through the wild battle's crush,  
 With but one thought aflush,  
 Driving their lords like chaff,  
 In the gun's mouth they laugh,  
 Or at the slippery brands,  
 Leaping with open hands,  
 Down they tear man and horse,  
 Down in their awful course,  
 Tramping with bloody heel  
 Over the crashing steel,  
 All their eyes forward bent,  
 Rushed the Black Regiment.

"Freedom." their battle cry,  
 "Freedom" or leave to die.  
 Ah, and they meant the word  
 Not as with us 'tis heard,  
 Not a mere party shout,  
 They gave their spirits out:  
 Trusted the end to God,  
 And on the gory sod,  
 Rolled in triumphant blood,  
 Glad to strike one free blow,  
 Whether for weal or woe,  
 Glad to breathe one free breath,  
 Though on the lips of death,  
 Praying, alas, in vain,  
 That they might rise again  
 So they could once more see  
 That fight for Liberty.  
 This is what "freedom" lent  
 To the Black Regiment.

Hundreds on hundreds fell,  
 But they are resting well,  
 Scourges and shackles strong  
 Never shall do them wrong.  
 Companions, be just and true:  
 Oh, to the living few  
 Hail them as comrades tried,  
 Stand with them side by side,  
 Never in field or tent  
 Shun the Black Regiment.

## WHERE ARE THE OLD SETTLERS?

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EARLY DAYS COMPILED BY ONE WHO IS FAMILIAR  
WITH THE SUBJECT.

(Published in Aurora Republican 1918.)

At a recent meeting of the Old Settlers' Society of West Hamilton County, Mrs. Lora I. Russell read a paper which attracted much attention and many requests for publication. She sent it to an old friend, Mrs. F. C. Putnam, in California, who in turn submitted it to N. P. Spafford, one of the few surviving original settlers. Mr. Spafford immediately wrote Mrs. Russell a letter of appreciation in which he said:

"We want to thank you, oh, so much, for the pleasure it has given us to go over the names and sketches of those old, never-to-be-forgotten days. What a world of work you must have put on that paper to get it ready. During the four years, 1874-8, that I was in the Aurora post office I became personally acquainted with practically every settler in the west part of the county. I do not wonder that you wish to preserve this manuscript, for in the years to come it will be almost priceless to you and yours. I only regret you did not have it published in some or all of the Aurora papers. I am almost sure the Hamilton County Register would be glad to publish it even now, for it is of great general interest to all the pioneers of the county and their descendants.

"Just think, many of those incidents occurred when I was but 21, and now I am an old, white-haired man of nearly 68 years. The writer was in 1870, when the Spaffords came to the county, '19 but a month ago,' 'there was red on his cheek and down on his chin,' 'for he was only a boy, you know.'

"The writer dug the first well in the west part of the county for Charley Tompkins and really inducted Jeffers, his brother-in-law, into the well-digging business. I also dug a number of other wells for pioneers between there and Aurora.

"The wife I married was the third white child born in the then territory of Nebraska. Our marriage license was the first ever issued to a Nebraska-born child in Hamilton county. The wife, Fannie L. Giltner, was the daughter of that old pioneer Presbyterian minister, Dr. H. M. Giltner, who came to Nebraska in 1855.

"I must tell you of the last time I saw Major Skelton. It was on the interurban train, returning from Nebraska state picnic at one of the beaches. We had a very pleasant chat with him. Thought at the time he would not be able to attend many more; this was his last picnic.

"Again thanking you for the very great pleasure we have derived from the perusal of your work, and with the hope that you will allow it to be published, I am very gratefully yours,

"N. P. Spafford."

Mrs. Russell's paper follows:

In the year 1884 a band of pilgrims met together in the park at St. Joe for a day's outing. St. Joe was an inland town in the early '80's on the northeast corner of Section 9, Town 10, West Range 8. St. Joe was large enough to boast of two general stores, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a hotel of five rooms and

a town hall built by the people of the community. This hall was the meeting place for all public gatherings, from dances and political meetings to Sunday school and church services. There were several dwellings and at times other places of business.

The park, which was planned and built by Mr. Skelton, is the only part of St. Joe that still remains.

These people enjoyed the day so much in talking over "why they came west," "leaving their homes in the east," of how they first scratched the ground with their old walking plows, which were as often drawn by oxen as by horses or mules, how the grasshoppers ate the meagre crop, how the dutiful housewife cooked the green weeds, johnny-cake and buffalo beans, they decided to meet once each year and remind each other of the hardships and pleasures of the past, and dream of the fortunes for their prosperity in the future.

To make these meetings a success they formed what was known as "The Old Settlers of West Hamilton County." They elected George L. Levee, president, O. P. Duncan, vice-president, and R. H. Peard, secretary. This organization held together until, I think, 1899. So many of the old settlers have drifted from our community, there has only been one reunion until two years ago, when we reorganized, and we hope that the organization will never lose interest again.

George L. Levee was the first to place his name on the membership roll. Then the next year the ladies decided they should have the "right to vote," and Mrs. Levee's name was written on the roll. Mr. Levee was the first blacksmith in this part of the county. Though Mr. Levee refused to sharpen plows several years ago, the old shop stood as a landmark until two years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Levee are the only homesteaders in Deepwell precinct on their homestead who have lived there continuously.

O. P. Duncan was second to write his name on the "roll of honor." But in 1895 his name was written on the roll of honor above the skies.

The third name was that of J. W. Skelton, who founded the little town of "used-to-be," three miles southwest of here. Mrs. Skelton was also a member of this association. It was the regret of their many friends that they should sell their beautiful home in the early '90s. The town had been moved to Phillips, but this move seemed to take St. Joe off the map, though never from the memories of the old settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Skelton moved to Broken Bow and later to Los Angeles, Calif. Last winter Mr. Skelton was summoned to his final home and his body was laid to rest in one of the beautiful cemeteries of Los Angeles. Mrs. Skelton still lives in Los Angeles near her children.

Then came "Uncle" Jonathan Foster, whose home for so many years was southwest of Giltner, but like so many of our old friends he has been called to the place of final rest.

Then the name of T. Darnell, one of Hamilton county's first lawyers; one time was district attorney for Hamilton and adjoining counties. Mr. Darnell moved with his family to Lincoln and later to University Place, but now he, too, is at rest.

Another farmer, N. T. Lane, added his name to these records in 1885, also did his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Lane homesteaded on Section 26, Town 11, Range 8, but spent many years in Phillips, being in business of different kinds. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lane have recently been called home.

Ben Wilson is another of our homesteaders who, with his wife, has been called to mansions above.

Martin Ennis, whose homestead was just across the line in Hall county, is another to be called home, but his wife, who helped in laying the foundation of this country, is living in Grand Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dearing, Sr., are still with us in heart and hand, though they moved from the farm in the early '90s to find life less strenuous in Grand Island. I have been told that Mr. Dearing could take the biggest bite of pie of anyone in the crowd. He and his wife were always welcome at the picnics, and always will be.

A. C. Bacon and his father, A. S. Bacon, were old settlers who removed from Deepwell to Lincoln county. Both have passed from this life.

The next name on the roll was that of R. H. Peard. He and Miss Albetina James came to this community with her parents in 1872, and soon after were married; took a homestead on Section 8 in Deepwell. In selling their homestead they did not move away, but bought land on the section south, which was their home for many years. The good people of Hamilton county chose Mr. Peard to be sheriff, and later three times for county clerk. Later Mr. Peard with his family moved to his late home near Phillips, where Mrs. Peard still resides. Mr. Peard was called to his home beyond in 1913.

W. J. Carver and F. O. Jenison were a couple more bachelors who came west to get rich quick. They took homesteads on Section 24 in Deepwell. Talk about "Hooverizing"—it was the early settlers that knew economy. These fellows took homesteads side by side, made their little one-room dugout and well on the line between the two homesteads, part of the time sleeping on one side of the house and then on the other, so each would live on his homestead the required time. They got tired of "turning their own flapjacks," and in 1876 William J. Carver was wedded to Miss Flora Skelton. From this time on he found things more prosperous. Mr. Carver was chosen treasurer of our county a couple of terms. In 1902 Mrs. Carver was called home. Later Mr. Carver was married to Mrs. Lora Ferguson, and now you will find them on a neat little ranch in the outskirts of Seattle, Wash., enjoying the beautiful climate and just work enough to keep healthy.

Then in November, 1876, Mr. Jenison was married to Lizzie Sellars. They later moved to the tree claim on Section 14. Though they tried town life in Phillips, and one year on a ranch in Custer county, you'll find them back on the old tree claim, still eating substitutes.

George Wartnaby, the pioneer carpenter, as well as homesteader from Deepwell, moved with his family to Grand Island, where he and his wife still reside, and where he can still find pleasure in sawing a board when he wants a little recreation.

W. D. Myers, a homesteader from Hamilton precinct, moved away from here many years ago. He and his wife are now living at University Place.

Then came F. C. Putnam and wife. He was another pioneer carpenter; found his homestead on Section 12 in Deepwell. Mr. Putnam was also a successful politician and was interested in the G. A. R. of Hamilton county. Mr. and Mrs. Putnam finally moved to "the land of sunshine and flowers," Long

Beach, Calif. About five years ago Mr. Putnam was called to the haven of rest. Mrs. Putnam still lives in Long Beach with her son Freeland.

Hamilton West took a homestead on Section 2 in Deepwell. He sold it and bought land on Section 5, then sold that and left Hamilton county. A year ago we heard from Mr. West. He was then in business in Tucson, Ariz.

A. C. Adams was another bachelor who took a homestead on Section 34 in Phillips precinct. He, too, soon tired of batching, went back to Iowa visiting, captured a good-looking young lady and returned to Nebraska, living on the old homestead until 1910, when they moved to University Place. City life was not as rosy as it might be, and now you will find Mr. and Mrs. Adams on a farm near Lodgepole, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tompkins homesteaded on Section 4 in Deepwell. Had one of the first post offices; it was known as Lincoln Valley, mail being brought overland by Mr. Spafford, father of N. P. Spafford. He made the trip from his home near Aurora to Grand Island by way of "nine bridges," at first twice a week and later three times per week. Lincoln Valley post office was transferred with Bunker Hill to St. Joe. Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins moved to St. Joe and ran a small store and the post office, later to Phillips and ran a flour mill, then to Missouri. Mr. Tompkins has gone to his eternal rest. As near as we can learn, Mrs. Tompkins is living with her children.

J. C. Jeffers, with his good wife, homesteaded on Section 34, in Phillips precinct, later with their children drifted from Hamilton county, finally landing at Altoona, Iowa, where they can eat hazelnuts as in childhood days.

Mr. and Mrs. James Loyd, other old homesteaders from Deepwell, moved to Custer county. Mrs. Loyd was called home a year ago. Mr. Loyd is living with his children near Broken Bow.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Noble homesteaded near Aurora. People were unusually healthy in those days. It has been said, "they had to kill a fellow to start the Aurora cemetery." Yet the services of Dr. Noble were highly appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Noble retired from their heavy labors to Seattle, Wash., where Mrs. Noble was called home. Later, when Mr. Noble was here on a visit his summons came and he was laid to rest in the family lot in the Aurora cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Higley homesteaded in Deepwell and cared for Bunker Hill post office until it moved to St. Joe. They spent many years in Lincoln, but their last happy years were spent together with their sons at Davenport, Iowa. Now they are both at home in heaven.

C. C. Pierce homesteaded near Aurora; later moved to Grand Island. He and his wife spent their last years in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Grand Island. Both are now at rest.

A. V. B. Peck was a farmer from Union precinct when he joined this society. He was for many years postmaster at Bromfield, now Giltner. He was called to his reward in 1909.

D. B. Parks, a farmer from the southeast corner of Deepwell, later moved to Bromfield; was county surveyor of Hamilton county for several years. He then moved to Harvard, where he was called to his final sleep.

John Garlick, another homesteader in Deepwell, moved to southwestern Nebraska and has answered the final roll call.

Walter Finch, often called Walter Clark, moved with his foster-father to the

western coast state. A year ago he was in Washington, while his father was in California.

Newton James spent his life on his father's homestead in Deepwell precinct, but left this world in 1899.

William T. Dearing was just large enough to leave off wearing skirts when he came to Hamilton county, but in time grew to manhood and married Miss Emma Kirkpatrick. They tried farming, then handling a general store in Phillips, but there is no place like the farm. Though Mr. and Mrs. Dearing live in Phillips, they own the farm just south of town and are full-fledged farmers.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson moved from Deepwell to the state of Washington, where trees grow as fast as our Nebraska corn and it rains strawberries and cream.

R. P. McCutcheon, another old settler, with his wife moved to Grand Island after several years on the farm. Mr. McCutcheon owned a small molasses factory for several years, and many a sweet tooth has been satisfied from his labors. Mrs. McCutcheon still lives in Grand Island but Mr. McCutcheon was called home a few months ago.

James Kirkpatrick and wife are now residents of Grand Island, though for many years they lived on Section 3 in Deepwell. The only kick Mr. Kirkpatrick has is that his age won't let him enlist in the army.

Then the fellow we used to enjoy hearing play the violin, Eugene E. Eaton, decided he could make more money in Hitchcock county than in Deepwell, so with his family spent several years in Seoville precinct, then moved to Aurora, where they lived until they were both called to rest. Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth were the parents of Mrs. W. L. Stark, now of Aurora.

A. J. Spanogle and wife, one-time farmers in Deepwell and for many years influential in business and social circles in St. Joe and Phillips, both were called home several years ago.

L. C. Floyd used to live on a homestead in Hamilton precinct, but with his family moved to Virginia many years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Williams used to live on a farm bordering St. Joe. They spent several happy years in Phillips. About twelve years ago Mr. Williams was called home. Mrs. Williams is now well contented in the Proctor Endowment Home at Peoria, Ill.

A. G. Sims was a young man when he came to Nebraska to take up a residence here. He soon captured Miss Lizzie Dixon for his wife. They now reside in a palatial home in Aurora.

Ed Price was a farmer of Town 11, and like the rest of the young farmers got him a wife. He married Lizzie Horn, who was taken from him in a few years, leaving two daughters and a son to cheer him in later years. Mr. Price was commissioner from our Third district and has also been in business in both Phillips and Aurora, but at present is spending the summer with his sister, "Aunt" Jane Priece.

We next come to the name of William Richardson, who with his wife and sons made enough on their farm in Deepwell to retire to city life in Phillips and later to California, where Mr. Richardson answered the final roll call. Mrs. Richardson's home is at East Highlands, near that of her son David. She

has been spending the summer in Nebraska visiting her two sons and other friends.

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Peterson found their homestead on Section 4 in Town 11. They will always be remembered by the early settlers for their great work in the Sunday school and church. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson moved to Aurora, where Mrs. Peterson was called to her home in heaven. Mr. Peterson was again married and is living quite comfortably in Aurora.

George Crumrine came to Town 11 with his little family and took a soldier's homestead on Section 34. His wife soon departed this life, leaving him with three small children. Later he married Jane Malcott, who helped him raise a fine family. Mr. and Mrs. Crumrine now live very happily in each other's company. I think Mr. Crumrine is the only homesteader in Phillips precinct still living on his homestead except W. J. Miller.

J. W. Alden and wife came here with their two sons and took homesteads. Mr. Alden also owned what is now the north part of Phillips. He and his wife are now at rest. William Alden is living with his family at North Platte, and Charles Alden and wife are living in Lincoln.

B. N. Miller came to Hamilton county with an ox team and a pancake griddle, dug a hole in the ground and crawled in; soon tired of batching and went to Iowa and got a wife. The Lord decreed their happiness to be short and his wife and little ones were soon called from the toil of this world. Later Mr. Miller married Miss Belle Sweezy from Illinois. Their life has been full of happiness and sunshine. They have now turned their farms over to their children and are preparing to live in a modern home in Grand Island.

James Madison was a homesteader from Deepwell who moved with his family to Colorado, then to South Dakota, where he departed this life. Mrs. Madison still lives near Redfield, S. D., with her children.

Elmer Ball was a very small boy when he arrived in this county. When he grew to manhood he won the heart and hand of Miss Margaret Horn. For awhile he tried pulling weeds on a farm, but now, with his family, is living in Des Moines, Iowa, an expert at pulling teeth.

James Allen found his homestead on Section 34 in Town 11. He brought with him his bride and by main strength and ingenuity won for himself a home worth living for. But in 1899 Mr. Allen succumbed to heart failure. Mr. and Mrs. Allen were the parents of the second white child born in this part of the county. That baby is now Mrs. Cora Dixon. Mrs. Allen was again married, this time to her brother-in-law, and for the last few years has been living very contentedly in her home in Phillips.

There used to be a man and his wife on a farm just across the road east of Phillips. They used to live on apples and oatmeal. Whenever he got thirsty he would walk to the town pump for a good, cool drink, and get the fashions of the day. This was Mr. and Mrs. Eli Decker. Now they have found an easier way; are living in Grand Island, where their daughter, Mrs. Sherrick, serves their oatmeal and they can get the fashions from the daily papers. (Mr. Decker is objecting; says he had lots more to eat.)

Then came Millard Hunt and wife. They missed the grasshoppers and johnny-cake and buffalo beans, but endured with us some of the later trials in homesteading. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt still live on Section 22 in Phillips precinct.



D. C. Huffman and his wife and grown children came to Hamilton county in 1873 and bought Section 19 in Hamilton precinct. Though Mr. and Mrs. Huffman are now with the angels, they did many kind deeds, never to be forgotten.

Levi Cox, a farmer living east of Phillips, got tired of farming and with his wife and daughter moved to Omaha, where he was connected with the Cox-Jones Commission Company. Like so many of his friends he is now at rest.

E. J. Bebb with his wife and children settled on Section 17 in Monroe precinct, but later moved to Phillips and for several years was an influential business man of that burg. He and his wife have both been called to that home that knows no sorrows and where troubles never come.

Mrs. C. Ward was a little braver than most of her sex; she came west and took a homestead; as she grew older she divided her property with her two daughters and moved with Mrs. Tompkins to Missouri. She is now with her brother, Jake Jeffers, at Altoona, Iowa.

When William Ball came west he bought railroad land on Section 33, Town 11. Mr. Ball was one of our first school teachers. His schoolhouse was the basement of his own home. He and his wife left this community for sunny California, where both have answered the final summons.

William Arnold settled on Section 1 in Deepwell. He soon won Miss Nora Arnold for his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold sold this farm and bought another adjoining the town of Phillips, where their son does the farming while "Billie" walks up town every day to read the latest war news from the bulletin boards.

You all know of Scoville precinct, in the southwest part of the county. In the early days a man with his good wife took a homestead on Section 24, Town 9, Range 8, and later when the precinct was looking for a name they chose that of their honorable citizen, Mr. Scoville. He was very prominent in political circles, having served the county as sheriff, was twice representative and once state senator. He was also commander at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home for a few years. He lived in Aurora many years, a prominent attorney, devoting a great deal of his time to temperance work. Mr. Scoville was called to the better world in April, 1903. Mrs. Scoville is now living with her daughter, Mrs. Lyle, wife of the county clerk of Hall county, at Grand Island.

George W. Pierce, a cousin of Mrs. Harvey Bell of Aurora, found a homestead on Lincoln creek near Aurora for himself and family. Mr. Pierce followed the trade of painter for several years before leaving Aurora for their present home at Lincoln.

Another member who faced the hardships of a homesteader's life was George W. Quigley, who with his wife found their first home in Beaver precinct. They sold this and bought land near what is now the city of Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Quigley were both summoned to their final home several years ago.

J. C. Hein did not live in this part of Hamilton county long. During his stay here he had a "dram shop" under the "big brick" store at Phillips. After one year he left with his family for parts unknown to us.

Miss Sarah Jane Price was another of our first lady land owners in Town 11, as Phillips precinct was then called. "Aunt Jane" was also one of our first schoolma'ams. She has always been interested in Sunday school and church work. Is now living comfortably in her home in Phillips.

Another bachelor was John T. Price. He was also one of our first "schoolma'ams," and one of our first county superintendents. Then he decided he needed an assistant teacher and persuaded Miss Nannie Lutz to be his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Price lived in Greeley Center for several years, but at present are living with their youngest daughter near Sholes, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Stark were also members of this worthy institution. Once upon a time they lived on a farm, but Aurora has been their home for many years. Many a time has the public been pleased to hear Mrs. Stark's voice blending in song with that of her father's, Mr. Ellsworth, at public gatherings. Mr. Stark has been a prominent attorney for many years and served several terms as congressman. He is now deeply interested in the Home Guard of Aurora, only lamenting he is above the age permitting him to enlist along with his son, Dr. Lucien Stark.

A. F. England, an early settler who found his bride at Naponee, Nebraska, will be remembered as farmer, carpenter and "schoolma'am." He and his family are now living quite comfortably at University Place.

George K. Eaton found his homestead on Section 6 in Hamilton precinct. He, too, was a bachelor, who later married Miss Margaret Woods, and lived for many years on the old home place. Mrs. Eaton was called home twelve years ago. Mr. Eaton continued to live on the same place until last January, when he, too, was called home.

N. B. Payne found his home in Union precinct. Mr. Payne was not only a farmer but spent a great deal of his time in church work. Mr. Payne and his family moved to Oklahoma about eighteen years ago, where they still reside.

D. E. Preston was another homesteader near Aurora. His wife died many years ago, and a few years ago he, too, was called to rest.

W. J. Douglas, who prospered for many years on his farm in the southern part of Deepwell, spent a few years in California for his wife's health. After her death he returned to his farm with the children, who are now grown, then he, too, was called to rest.

N. P. Spafford is the last name on the records. He came west with his father when he was but a small boy, and grew up with the country. Mr. Spafford was married and for many years was proprietor of Aurora's principal book store. For the past several years he and his wife have been living at their ease in sunny California.

There were eighty-nine members of the old association. Forty-one of this number have been called to rest, and only three are still living on the land they earned from Uncle Sam.

Now, I may have made a few mistakes. If I have I hope those who know will correct me, as I wish to keep this as a record.

I love the man of nerve who dares to do,  
The moral hero, stalwart through and through,  
Who treads the untried path, evades the rut,  
And in a forest clearing builds a hut;  
Removes the tares encumbering the soil,  
And finds an empire based on thought and toil,  
Then let me, once for all, propose this toast:

“Here’s to those men of all we love the most,  
Those living for the future, not the past,  
Surmounting obstacles, however vast!  
And so, through joys and sorrows, smiles and tears  
I say, ‘God bless those sturdy pioneers.’ ”

—G. F. Rhinehart in *The Pioneers*.

Ernest Hoagland was the first white child born in this part of the county. He was born on Section 30, Town 11, Range 7, now known as the Dan Devore place. His parents are both dead. A brother was for many years a member of the police force in Grand Island.

## CHAPTER IV

### GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL HISTORY OF HAMILTON COUNTY

IN THE SEVENTIES—IN THE EIGHTIES—ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICERS—COUNTY CLERK  
—COUNTY TREASURER—SHERIFF—COUNTY JUDGE—COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT  
OF SCHOOLS—SURVEYOR—CORONER—LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION—COUNTY  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS—ELECTIONS DURING THE NINETIES—ELECTIONS FROM  
1900-1910—OFFICERS FROM 1910 TO 1921—WAS A VERY LONESOME DEMOCRAT,  
A. M. GLOVER—POLITICAL REVIEW OF HAMILTON COUNTY.

#### IN THE SEVENTIES

Prior to the fall of 1872 only the east half of the county had been settled, and parties were an unknown element in the selection of candidates to fill the various offices. At the election of that year all that part of the county west of Range 6 constituted one election precinct; the election was held at the house of D. A. Scovill. There were only six legal voters in the precinct at the time. They were D. A. Scovill, George Jaekett, W. P. White, A. V. B. Peek, David Wright and David Boag. As it required five of them to constitute the election board, it left one man who received no pay for his day's time. This man was W. P. White, and the "board" put in their time during the day electioneering the one man who constituted the constituency. During the year 1873 the towns of Aurora and Orville began to gird up their loins for the contest, which each knew to be inevitable, and which meant the death of one or the other. For the first time in the history of the county two conventions were held in that year, one at Orville and one at Aurora. At the election which followed the Aurora ticket proved victorious, the following men of that place being elected: William R. Mitchell, clerk; J. H. Faris, treasurer; J. M. Smith, sheriff; J. T. Preece, superintendent, and B. F. Isaman, commissioner. During the succeeding two years the "county seat fight" had developed into open and bitter warfare, with Hamilton in the fray fresh and vigorous, Aurora thrice defeated, but cool and determined, and Orville "badly disfigured, but still in the ring."

With this condition of affairs a convention was called to meet at Aurora in the fall of 1875 to nominate a county ticket. Aurora Precinct caucus was called to meet at the schoolhouse (later the Catholic church) at 6 o'clock the evening before the convention. Promptly on the minute the caucus was called to order, with L. W. Hastings and R. W. Graybill as chairman and secretary. Without any undue loss of time a delegation was selected and the caucus proceeded to vote on same. In the meantime the voters of Hamilton started in a body from the store of T. A. McKay, in Hamilton, and wended their way toward the schoolhouse. Arriving there, T. A. McKay opened the door and was greeted by the following words in the voice of the chairman, L. W. Hastings: "Have you all

voted? If so I declare the ballot closed." The Hamilton delegation, claiming that undue haste had been used in order to disfranchise them, then withdrew and nominated a second set of delegates.

The convention was organized the next day with D. A. Scovill, chairman. A bitter fight at once ensued between the rival delegations from Aurora precinct. The convention, after hearing the case presented by both sides, seated the Aurora delegation. In this convention, R. W. Graybill was a candidate for superintendent, and J. M. Fodge, for sheriff, but as both these gentlemen were members of the Aurora faction, it was decided that they would have to be sidetracked, and the candidates for those positions be selected from the south side of the county in order to hold as many votes in that section as possible, to counteract the defection caused by the "double header" delegation from Aurora. With this view D. A. Scovill was nominated for sheriff, and Gen. Delevan Bates for superintendent. Mr. Graybill, fully appreciating the situation, accepted the inevitable with good grace. Mr. Fodge, however, was not so complacent, and before the election announced himself as an independent candidate. A convention called at Orville the same year nominated candidates for clerk and county judge. The Aurora ticket was elected by large majorities.

In 1877 the "county seat war," was a thing of the past, but its influence remained, and was the great factor in moulding parties, and determining the politics of the county. This fall a straight Republican county ticket was put in the field. The Democrats and dissatisfied Republicans united with the members of the "Greenback" party, which had a very respectable following in the county, to defeat the Republican ticket.

The campaign was a "red hot one," both sides using their utmost efforts to win. After a long exciting contest, when the smoke of battle had cleared away, it was found that the "sugar plums" had been gathered in by the "Greenbackers," they having elected their candidate for the offices of clerk, treasurer and surveyor, while the Republicans had secured the offices of sheriff, probate judge, superintendent and coroner. In 1878 three legislative tickets were put in the field, and the Republicans achieved a comparatively easy victory, electing D. A. Scovill to the Senate (the first member that Hamilton County had contributed to that body) and R. W. Graybill to the house. The next contest was in 1879, and was waged with the same energy and spirit as characterized the election of two years before.

#### IN THE EIGHTIES

The Republicans put up an excellent ticket, knowing it would require good men and united effort to overcome the personal popularity of T. A. McKay, the candidate for treasurer on the Greenback ticket. For this reason W. H. Streeter was induced to accept the nomination for treasurer. He was not only well known throughout the county as a first-rate business man, but his personal popularity was second to none in the county. The closeness of the contest will be seen in the fact that McKay received 599 votes, and Streeter 594, the former being elected by a majority of five votes. All the balance of the Republican ticket was elected. In 1880, being "presidential year," the Republicans were well consolidated and elected John Helms (Republican) to the Legislature

over A. Reuber (Democrat). The campaign was a lively one, but much better feeling prevailed than formerly.

Again the advent of election of county officers in 1881 brought on a hard struggle, and again the Democrats and "Greenbackers" united. They were now under the leadership of W. F. Peck, a shrewd politician and a skillful organizer. The Republicans were badly beaten, failing to secure anything except superintendent. Heretofore the political contests had been confined almost entirely to the election of county officers, but in 1882 the Democrat and Greenback parties united on a Legislative ticket, putting F. M. Barnes (D) and L. C. Floyd (G) on the track. The Republicans nominated Joshua Cox and A. J. Spanogle. Both the Republican and Greenback candidates for Lieutenant Governor were Hamilton County men, A. W. Agee on the Republican, and P. B. Reynoldson the Greenback ticket. As the Legislature of 1883 would elect a United States Senator, both parties put forth their utmost efforts to elect their candidates. The contest was very close, the vote standing: Agee (R) 766, Reynolds (G) 724, Cox (R) 846, Barnes (D) 750, Spanogle (R) 853, Floyd (G) 731. The Greenback party having died a natural death, in 1883 Mr. Peck organized his forces under the battle flag of "anti-monopoly," and under that banner led them on to victory.

The Republicans suffered the most complete rout they had ever experienced in the county. The only office they succeeded in securing was that of coroner. In 1884 the Republicans had an easy victory in electing their Legislative ticket, F. C. Putnam to the Senate and Joshua Cox and George Liebhart to the House. In 1885 the Republicans entered the arena determined to regain their foothold in the court house, and put up an excellent ticket. Again the Democrats and "Anti-Monopolists" united, with J. M. Laurie for clerk and W. F. Peck for treasurer. A very sharp campaign ensued, the leading candidates on both tickets canvassing the county thoroughly and interviewing almost every man in the county. The election was extremely close, as the following figures will testify: For clerk, J. M. Laurie (D), 1,109; W. M. Thomas (R), 1,090; For treasurer, H. Cole (R), 1,033; W. F. Peck (A), 997; W. Glover (D), 182. For sheriff, F. E. Valentine, 1,194; W. Z. Pollard, 1,011. For the balance of the offices the Republicans had larger majorities. This election was the Waterloo of early "fusion" in this county.

In August, 1885, E. W. Hurlbut had established The Sun, a Democratic newspaper, in Aurora, and had succeeded in gradually withdrawing the Democrats from the fusion party, and consolidating it under the straight banner of Democracy. This at the same time had the effect of dissolving the "fusion" party, and those Republicans, who had withdrawn from the ranks, on account of local differences, gradually floated back to their old party, so that when the time came for nominating a Legislative ticket in 1886, straight Democratic and Republican tickets were nominated. Both parties entered the campaign eager for the contest. The result of the election was: Member of Congress, Second District, James Laird (R), 1,149; W. A. McKeighan (D), 711. Members of the Legislature, A. W. Agee (R), 1,043; A. Wilsey (R), 1,090; Samuel Robbins (D), 769; D. S. Woodard (D), 840.

Again in 1887, the two old parties faced each other, this time on election of county officers. This was the first time in the history of the county when

the two parties struggled hand to hand for the possession of the courthouse "plums," divested of all extraneous influences. It is true the Prohibitionists had a ticket in the field, but its influence was too slight to affect the result. The entire Republican ticket was elected by majorities ranging from 275 to 750. The same conditions prevailed in 1888, upon the election of the legislative ticket. In this campaign the Democrats made a great effort to secure the election of Reuben Cox, one of their candidates. For this purpose a severe fight was made against D. A. Scovill, one of the Republican candidates. The following was the vote: For member of Congress, Second District, James Laird (R), 1,621; W. G. Hastings (D), 1,048; George Scott (P), 164. For members of the Legislature, D. A. Scovill (R), 1,633; J. J. Farley (R), 1,770; Reuben Cox (D), 1,072; S. B. Youst (D), 964; L. A. McKay (P), 121; M. Castle (P), 122.

The political campaign of 1889 was one of the most notable in the history of the parties in the county. The Republican convention was called to meet at the courthouse in Aurora on Saturday, October 5.

The primary election in Aurora Precinct, for election of thirteen delegates, was held October 4. Two sets of delegates were being balloted for, the Moore delegates, who favored James Moore for nominee for sheriff, and the Shenberger delegates, who favored the nomination of W. W. Shenberger. After the primary polls were closed and the votes counted the canvassing board, consisting of William P. Hellings, D. A. Scovill and L. W. Hastings, announced that the "Moore" ticket was elected.

The convention the next day was called to order by E. J. Hainer, chairman of the Republican county central committee; William P. Hellings, secretary of the central committee, acting as secretary of the convention.

The "Moore" delegates presented their credentials, as follows, and demanded seats in the convention:

Aurora, Nebr., Oct. 5th, 1889.

At a primary election of the Republican voters of Aurora Precinct, the 4th day of October, 1889, the following were the delegates elected to the convention to be held October 5th, 1889:

For delegates to the county convention—Thomas Smith, Sr., George Daniels, H. F. Williamson, A. C. Crawford, W. A. Ellsworth, Roger Hurlbut, Rolla Powell, Ole Anderson, William Roonan, George Liebhart, J. P. Chapman, E. Anderson, P. F. Moore.

L. W. Hastings,  
Secty. Republican Preet. Committee.

The "Shenberger" delegates also presented credentials, as follows:  
To the Chairman and Members of the County Republican Convention:

I hereby certify that the following named persons were duly elected delegates to the county Republican convention, to be held at Aurora, Nebr., on the 5th day of October, 1889, and are entitled to seats therein, viz.:

For delegates to the county convention—B. F. Anderson, E. Huling, B. F. Valentine, C. C. Coon, H. B. Witte, B. F. Richards, A. W. Downey, J. E.

McBride, L. W. Hastings, A. G. Hoegren, D. L. Toof, W. P. Hellings, I. N. Jones.

Witness my hand this 5th day of October, 1889.

William P. Hellings,

Attest: L. W. Hastings,

President.

Secy. of Aurora Precinct Committee.

There being a contest between these two delegations, the committee on credentials, composed of Ed Nugent, L. F. Fye and W. J. Carver, proceeded to investigate the matter. After securing such evidence as was attainable, the committee came to the following conclusion: That the "Moore" tickets and the "Shenberger" tickets were printed with the same kind of type, but that the "Moore" tickets were printed solid; that is, with very little spacing between the names, while the Shenberger tickets were heavily leaded; that is, with wide spaces between the names; that during the afternoon, fearing they would run out of tickets, additional Shenberger tickets were printed, but that the leads had been removed from the form and the names shoved together, so that these tickets were printed solid, and had the same appearance as the "Moore" tickets; that the canvassing board, instead of reading the tickets, had sorted them with reference to the spacing between the names, counting all the "leaded" tickets for Shenberger and all the "solid" tickets for Moore, and in this way they had counted tickets for Moore which should have been counted for Shenberger. The following affidavit of William P. Hellings was filed with the committee on credentials:

State of Nebraska,  
Hamilton County, ss.:

William P. Hellings, being first duly sworn, says that he was one of the judges who conducted the Republican primary election in the precinct of Aurora on the 4th day of October, 1889, and was president of said board; that after the polls were closed the tickets were counted out, and it was found that there were 274 tickets that were not scratched, 140 of which were counted for what is known as the "Moore tickets."

Affiant says that said tickets were taken up by the judges, each judge counting, and what were thought to be "Moore tickets" laid in bunches of ten on one part of the table, and what were known as "Shenberger tickets" laid in bunches of ten on another part of the table, except six (6) tickets on which some name or names had been scratched; that in counting said tickets affiant did not notice the names on each ticket, but believing that all the Shenberger tickets were longer than the Moore tickets, and not knowing that two sizes of the Shenberger tickets had been printed, he placed all of the short tickets with what is known as the Moore tickets; that since the vote was counted and the ballots placed in the ballot-box and locked up, affiant has learned that there were two sizes of tickets printed with the names of the Shenberger delegates thereon, and that he has reason to believe that in counting said tickets he counted tickets for the Moore delegation that ought to have been counted for the Shenberger delegation.

Affiant further states, that after the votes were all counted they were strung



on a string and placed in the ballot-box, and the ballot-box was locked up by D. A. Scovill, one of the judges, and that as he supposed said Scovill kept the key to said box; that said box was left in his office, and the doors and windows to his office were locked by him very soon after the completion of the count; that no other person has the key to his office to his knowledge, and that no person could get into his office without breaking in; that he has kept said ballot-box in said office and has kept his door locked ever since that time, except when he would be in his office himself, so that no person could tamper with said ballot-box.

Affiant says that he learned that said key had been left in his office, since twelve o'clock of this day; that said Scovill then told him that he had left the key in a drawer in affiant's office, and that affiant immediately went to his office and found the key in a small pasteboard box containing paper fasteners which were in a drawer in his office.

Affiant says said ballot box has not been out of his office and has never been opened since said tickets were placed therein and the box locked.

W. P. Hellings.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of October, 1889.

[SEAL]

W. L. Stark,

County Judge.

The affidavit of D. A. Scovill also was filed, as to the locking up and safe keeping of the ballots after being counted. The committee thereupon concluded to open the ballot box and recount the ballots, upon doing which six of the short "Shenberger" tickets were found on the string among the "Moore" tickets. The committee then made their report recommending the seating of the Shenberger delegates. Capt. Cassell raised the point of order that the report could not be adopted inasmuch as the committee had no right to go behind the returns. The chairman ruled the point of order not well taken. Cassell then moved that the delegates known as the "Moore delegates," be substituted for the delegates reported by the committee and known as the "Shenberger delegates." The motion was lost; ayes 24, nays 48. The report of the committee was then adopted. The delegation, as seated, was solid for the nomination of W. S. Harlan for county treasurer, while the "Moore delegates" were almost as unanimous for Levi Cox. The balloting for a candidate for this office revealed the fact that the convention was pretty nearly equally divided between those two men. The following statement shows the result of the ballots: First ballot, Harlan 32, Cox 34, Reed 12, Isaman 7; second ballot, Harlan 40, Cox 34, Reed 11; third ballot, Harlan 36, Cox 39, Reed 10; fourth ballot, Harlan 43, Cox 36, Reed 4.

The adherents of Cox and Moore were greatly incensed over the action of the convention, and freely charged fraud on the part of the friends of Harlan and Shenberger, claiming that Moore tickets had been abstracted from the ballot box and Shenberger tickets substituted after the count had been made. The deep mutterings of the coming storm were plainly heard. Referring to the transaction the Aurora Republican of October 11, 1889, said: "The Republican primary held in this city at the courthouse last Friday was one of the most earnest contests with the little white ballot that was ever held at a

primary election in this place; in fact, it arose almost to the importance of a general election. There were over 280 votes cast out of a possibility of a little over 300 votes, there being 311 Republican votes cast at the general election last fall.

“Everything passed off very smoothly, however, and only for an error that was made in the count of the ballots after the vote had been polled, not a murmur would ever have been heard; and to correct any erroneous impression that might go abroad in regard to it we make the following statement of fact which we are willing to be qualified on:

“Before the polls opened, at 12 o'clock Friday noon, tickets had been printed at this office—one set for Moore, headed by Thomas Smith, and another set for Shenberger, headed by B. F. Anderson.

“The Moore ticket had the same heading as the Shenberger ticket, but the Moore ticket was about three-quarters of an inch shorter than the Shenberger, and the composition on the Moore ticket was what a printer calls solid work; that is, no leads or spaces between lines, while the composition on the Shenberger ticket was leaded matter, or spaces between lines.

“In printing the tickets in this way there is to a printer quite a contrast in the looks of the two tickets, and a printer could separate the two tickets from each other by their looks, without stopping to read each ticket. There were 300 tickets of this kind printed for each candidate, and it was supposed that the 600 tickets would be a great plenty for the 300 voters, but at about 5 o'clock in the evening it was noticed that the tickets had nearly all disappeared from the polls. It is an old trick to destroy the ballots of the opposition party and has frequently resulted disastrously to the party who could not promptly supply the defect, as voters are sometimes late and only arrive at the polls a few minutes before they close to find there is not a ballot left. As soon as it was noticed both parties ordered more tickets, and in the hurry to get them off, the forms having been unled for other work, the tickets were printed, both the Moore and Shenberger tickets, from solid forms, and upon paper, the size of the original Moore tickets, which was three-quarters of an inch shorter than the Shenberger tickets, and having been printed from a solid form had the appearance of that ticket.

“Now for the sequel: Mr. Hellings, who as one of the canvassing board, is a practical printer, knew nothing about the change of the size and looks of the ticket, did not handle the tickets at the polls, but had seen the two tickets when the polls were opened at noon, and a printer naturally would notice the great contrast between them, and when the polls were closed at night Mr. Hellings, assisted by the other two members of the board, Mr. Seovill and this editor, commenced to count the ballots and make the tally sheets; it was very natural for Mr. Hellings, who is a practical printer, not knowing that there had been tickets printed from a solid form, on the same sized paper the Moore tickets had been printed on, to count some Shenberger tickets with the Moore ticket; and it was in this way that the Moore delegation seemed to have a small majority when the ballots were counted; and it was not till the next day that he discovered his mistake, when he went to certify the Moore credentials up to the convention, and got hold of one of these small tickets, supposing all the time

it was a Moore ticket, but found it was one of the Shenberger tickets, and then his mistake was revealed to him for the first time."

The Sun, Democratic newspaper, was not slow to profit by the mistake made by the Republicans, and in order to add to the spirit of rebellion, came out with the following editorial, in its issue of October 11, 1889:

#### THE RETURNING BOARD

"On Friday the Republican primaries were held, and two delegations, one for Moore, and the other for Shenberger, contested the field. W. P. Hellings, L. W. Hastings and D. A. Scovill, a board solid for Shenberger, was secured. With this advantage against Moore in cases of challenge, his delegation was duly elected by five majority, and the credentials issued. The other side kicked, claiming that Democrats swore in their votes for Moore, but were met with the fact that an offset was made by 'Prohibs' voting for Shenberger. It soon became apparent that that kind of kicking would do no good, and the matter dropped. When the delegations came in it was quite apparent that Levi Cox had a cinch on the treasurership, and Moore almost a certainty for the nomination of sheriff. Then, as if by a miracle, at about the hour the convention was to convene, Hellings stumbled upon an unused ticket which lay upon the floor, with the Shenberger delegation printed thereon. It looked unnatural to him. Its size and appearance was different from those of yesterday. He sized it up with one of those of the day before. It was shorter and narrower. Then he remembered that he had sized up the tickets, and counted the larger ones for Shenberger and the little ones for Moore. There must be a mistake. He was for a new count immediately. He was certain the new count would elect the Shenberger delegation. The box containing the votes, and the key, had been in his possession over night. The box had not been sealed, according to law, nor the key placed with one of the board and the box with another as the law directs. Notwithstanding that the ballots had not been protected, he was in favor of a new count. He made affidavit that he had not disturbed the ballots, but did not swear that no one else had. It was left to the convention, and they decided to recount. They found two ballots more than was found the night before, and two more than there were names on the poll list, and also found a majority of two for the Shenberger delegation.

"The Moore delegation were kicked out of the convention, and the regular ring delegates chosen. The Louisiana returning board could have done no more, and the result caused great applause from the ring supporters.

"Mr. Cox, urged by many of his friends, announced himself as an independent candidate for treasurer."

The Democratic convention met at Aurora on Saturday, October 12, 1889, and put in nomination a straight Democratic ticket, except for the offices of county judge and surveyor, endorsing the Republican nominees for those positions.

The campaign which ensued was hard fought and earnest. There was comparatively little public speaking, the tactics on both sides being of the "still hunt" order.

The accompanying figures give the vote of the county officers at each elec-

tion from 1875, the first election in the county at which two parties contended for supremacy:

County clerk: 1875, J. H. Helms, 527; A. W. Conner, 312; S. R. Cowgill, 1. 1877, T. C. Klumb (G), 328; Walter Chambers (R), 297. 1879, W. L. Whittemore (R), 576; T. C. Klumb (G), 559; V. D. Cass (D), 96; scattering, 5. 1881, W. F. Peck (A), 741; W. L. Whittemore (R), 631; J. H. Faris, 1. 1883, W. F. Peck (A), 1,271; T. B. Johnson (R), 490. 1885, J. M. Laurie (D), 1,109; William M. Thomas (R), 1,090; scattering, 4. 1887, R. H. Peard (R), 1,409; Charles L. Crand (D), 587; D. E. Price (P), 47; scattering, 3. 1889, R. H. Peard (R), 1,455; G. P. Brahm (D), 1,096.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, R. W. Shuman; 1893, Wm. C. Bailey; 1895, Gust Peterson; 1897, re-elected; 1899, John Barnett; 1901, J. A. Isaman; 1903, J. W. Marvel; 1905, re-elected; 1907, Saylor; 1909, re-elected; 1911, re-elected; 1913, J. J. Klumb; 1915, J. J. Klumb served; in 1916 Henry V. Nelson was elected; in 1917, re-elected; in 1919, re-elected; 1921, re-elected.

Treasurer: 1875, J. H. Faris, 818. 1877, T. A. McKay (G), 327; Jesse Evans (R), 311; 1879, T. A. McKay (G), 599; W. H. Streeter (R), 594; George Wildish (D), 41; scattering, 16. 1881, J. H. Faris (A), 838; M. J. Peterson (R), 533. 1883, J. H. Faris (A), 1,164; John Raben (R), 575; scattering, 2. 1885, Harvey Cole (R), 1,033; W. F. Peck (A), 997; William Glover (D), 182; Thomas, 1. 1887, Harvey Cole (R) 1,291; Frank Stevens (D) 728; John Litzenberg, 32; C. L. Crane, 1. 1889, Peter Farney (D), 1,110; W. S. Harlan (R), 986; Levi Cox (R), 474.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, Peter Farney; 1893, William J. Carver, 1895, re-elected; 1897, F. W. Hammond; 1899, re-elected; 1901, Cunningham; 1903, re-elected, 1905, Wanek, 1907, Wanek, 1909, E. S. Wood, 1911, re-elected; 1913, re-elected; 1915, F. L. McCarty, 1917, re-elected; 1919, H. E. Toof, 1921, re-elected.

Sheriff: 1875, D. A. Scoville, 803; J. M. Fodge, 51; W. Hickman, 1. 1877, James M. Fodge (R), 338; James Taggart (G), 240; N. B. Payne, 49; 1879, R. H. Peard (R), 544; W. Z. Pollard (D), 324; J. M. Fodge, 157; Simon Snow, 137; J. M. Zentbauer, 140. 1881, W. Z. Pollard (D), 890; M. L. Vandewalker (R), 493. 1883, W. Z. Pollard (D), 1,100; W. W. VanMeter (R), 673; W. K. Ream, 1. 1885, W. Z. Pollard (D), 1,011; F. E. Valentine, 1,194; J. Kirk, 1. 1887, W. W. Shenberger (R), 1,167; W. Z. Pollard (D) 895; W. B. McCullough, 38; scattering, 3. 1889, W. H. Fall (D), 1,368; W. W. Shenberger (R), 1,197; scattering, 2.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, A. J. McConaughey; 1893, re-elected; 1895, re-elected; 1897, W. Z. Pollard, 1899, re-elected; 1901, Klumb, 1903, re-elected; 1905 re-elected; 1907, Murphy; 1909, J. B. Young; 1911, re-elected; 1913, Jno. F. Powell; 1915 re-elected; 1917 J. E. Howard, 1919, re-elected 1921, re-elected.

County Judge: 1875, W. L. Whittemore, 482; W. W. Hickox, 301; scattering 5. 1877, W. L. Whittemore (R), 455; S. Whitesides (G), 182. 1879, W. L. Stark (R) 731; T. H. Glover (G) 308; R. Lamont (D) 192; scattering 4. 1881, W. K. Ream (A), 717; J. H. Sauls (R) 615; scattering, 15. 1883, W. K. Ream (A) 923; J. H. Sauls (R) 821; scattering 3. 1885, J. H. Lincoln (R), 1,283; W. K.

Ream (A) 773; scattering, 2. 1887, W. L. Stark (R), 1,360; D. M. Waite (D) 611; scattering, 42. 1889, W. L. Stark (R) 2,554; B. Hiatt, 1.

Those elected from 1890 to date. 1891, W. L. Stark; 1893, re-elected; 1895, J. Edmundson, 1897, re-elected; 1899, A. R. Brownell; 1901, re-elected; 1903, C. A. Coats, 1905, Washburn, 1907, re-elected, 1909, re-elected; 1911, Fred Jeffers, 1913, re-elected; 1915, re-elected; 1917, re-elected; 1919, J. E. Howard; 1921, re-elected.

Superintendent of schools: 1875, Delevan Bates, 873; scattering, 2. 1877, E. B. Barton (R) 354; H. G. Cass (G), 267; H. J. Cass, 9. 1879, E. B. Barton (R), 759; Sarah J. Price (G), 368; W. K. Ream, 4. 1881, E. B. Barton (R), 692; S. A. Holcomb (A), 655. 1883, J. A. Kirk (A) 867; E. B. Barton (R), 841. 1885, E. B. Barton (R), 1,180; J. A. Kirk (A) 1,018; scattering 3. 1887, E. B. Barton (R), 1,185; Lou Arnel (D), 809; scattering, 28. 1889, M. F. Stanley (R), 1,489; J. H. N. Cobb (D), 1,073; G. Carter, 1.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, M. F. Stanley; 1893, re-elected, 1895, Ed. Randall; 1897, T. F. McCarthy; 1899, re-elected; 1901, Woodard; 1903, re-elected; 1905, Stephenson; 1907, re-elected; 1909, re-elected; 1911, re-elected; 1913, E. W. Jackson; 1915, Margaret A. McConnell; 1917, A. S. Nelson; 1919, re-elected; 1921, re-elected.

Surveyor: 1875, C. M. Hollenbach, 872. 1877, S. B. Parks (G), 427; G. M. Hollenbach (R), 213; E. B. Barton, 1. 1879, D. B. Parks, 823; W. B. Hargus, 170; scattering 5. 1881, G. M. Simpson, 718; D. B. Parks, 647. 1883, D. B. Parks (A), 933; M. M. Halleck (R), 847; scattering, 3. 1885, M. M. Halleck (R), 1,291; D. B. Parks (A), 919; scattering, 2. 1887, D. B. Parks, 1,974; Frank Wood, 52. 1889, D. B. Parks, 2,541; J. H. N. Cobb, 1.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, C. W. Wilder; 1893, D. B. Parks; 1895, Oscar Berggren; 1897, E. S. Wood; 1899, re-elected; 1901, Berggren; 1903, re-elected; 1905, re-elected; re-elected in 1907; 1909, re-elected; 1911, re-elected; 1913, re-elected; 1915, re-elected; 1917, re-elected; 1919, re-elected; 1921, re-elected.

Coroner: 1875, Ira Westbrook, 874. 1877, James Duncanson (R), 381; Jacob Rathgeb (G), 234; scattering, 25. 1879, F. H. Clark (R), 765; Ira Westbrook (G), 300; J. M. Champe (D), 166. 1881, J. W. Elarton (R), 755; scattering, 40. 1883, T. H. Line (R), 881; J. W. Elarton (A), 877; scattering, 25. 1885, George A. Blakeley (R), 1,315; D. S. Woodard (D), 785; scattering, 3. 1887, J. W. Elarton (R), 1,295; W. F. Gooden, 714; scattering, 31. 1889, E. A. Steenburg (R), 1,499; A. M. Glover (D), 1,008; scattering, 34.

Those elected from 1890 to date: 1891, J. P. Hough; 1893, J. Pusey Chapman; 1895, C. E. Browne; 1897, re-elected; 1899, B. A. Munson; 1901, Haughey; 1903, C. D. Hustead, 1905, re-elected; 1907, Woodard; 1909, re-elected; 1911, re-elected; 1913, re-elected; 1915, re-elected; 1917, re-elected; 1919, Edgerton; 1921, J. J. Reinhardt.

#### REPRESENTATION IN STATE LEGISLATURE

Dr. W. M. Knapp of York was chosen to represent York and Hamilton counties in the state senate, and T. B. Johnson of Aurora represented Hamilton in the lower house; in 1879, D. A. Scoville of Aurora was senator, and R. W. Graybill, representative; except for Valentine Horn of Phillips in 1891 and E. E.

Mighell of Hamilton in 1895, and F. M. Howard of Aurora in 1899, Clay county furnished the senator for the Hamilton-Clay district between 1881 and 1903. In the lower house Hamilton was served by Albert Wilsey of Hampton, in 1881, who served again in 1887 after Joshua M. Cox of Hampton had served in 1883 and 1885. In 1889, J. J. Farley of Marquette went to the legislature, and in 1891 Joel T. Vorhees, Aurora. In 1893 and 1895 Hamilton was represented by John B. Cain, well known in financial and banking circles of the state and Fred Newberry, whose railroad and transportation legislation gave him a permanent place in Nebraska history. In 1897 another distinguished pair were selected, Attorney J. H. Grosvenor and Dr. D. S. Woodard. In 1899 two more able attorneys represented the county, J. H. Edmondson and John A. Whitmore. In 1903 and 1905 A. V. Cunningham of Giltner and Chas. Anderson of Marquette served. In 1907 W. I. Farley of Aurora and W. Hagemester of Henderson vicinity. In 1911 R. W. Boyd of Aurora and J. L. Evans of Aurora. Since then in 1911, Clark E. Neir, 1913 and 1915, T. M. Scott; 1917, Perry Reed, Henderson, 1919 and 1921, Frank Anderson, Aurora. Since 1903 the senators have been Joshua Cox of Hampton, 1905, Geo. W. Shreck of York, and in 1907, 1909, 1911 and 1913, Joshua M. Cox again served; in 1915 and 1917, Charles E. Sandall of York served, and in 1919 and 1921, Perry Reed of Hamilton served as senator.

#### COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The boundaries of Hamilton were defined by an act of the twelfth session of the Territorial Legislature, Sections 2 to 31, as follows:

An act to define the limits of Clay, Webster, Hamilton, Adams and Franklin counties.

*Be it enacted by the council and house of representatives of the territory of Nebraska,*

Sec. 2. That the territory included within the following described limits, to-wit: Commencing at the point where the west line of range four, west of the sixth principal meridian, crosses the Platte River, and running from thence up the channel of said river to the point where the west line of range eight west of the sixth principal meridian crosses the said river, and running from thence due south, to the southwest corner of township number nine, range eight, and running from thence due east, to the southeast corner of township number nine, range five, and running from thence due north to the place of beginning, be, and the same shall constitute the County of Hamilton.

An act of the Legislature approved February 24, 1873, provides that section lines in the county shall be public roads and highways.

Hamilton County, by an act of the Legislature of 1871, formed a part of the Twelfth Senatorial and Thirteenth Representative Districts, each of which was entitled to one member.

The twelfth Senatorial District included the counties of Saline, Gage, Jefferson, Fillmore, Clay, York, Polk, Hamilton, Nuckolls, Webster, Adams, Kearney and Franklin, together with all that portion of the State not included in any other Senatorial district, and which lies south of the Platte River and west of the counties named.

The Thirteenth Representative District included the counties of York, Polk, Butler, Platte, Hamilton, Fillmore, Clay and Adams. By the constitution adopted in 1875, the county was apportioned representation as follows:

"District (Senatorial) No. 22 shall consist of the counties of York and Hamilton, and be entitled to one Senator." Representative Districts: District No. 28 shall consist of the county of Hamilton, and be entitled to one Representative."

In the reapportionment of 1881, Hamilton and Hall Counties were constituted the Twenty-fifth Senatorial District, while Hamilton County formed the Forty-third Representative District, and was entitled to two members, which continued in force until 1887, when Clay and Hamilton were united to form the Twenty-fifth Senatorial District, and Hamilton County constituted the Forty-first Representative District, entitled to two members, which continues at this time.

Hamilton County was organized at a general election held May 3, 1870, at the house of John Harris, called for that purpose by a proclamation of Gov. David Butler, issued March 13, 1870, of which the following is a copy:

State of Nebraska,

Executive Department:

WHEREAS, a large number of the citizens of the unorganized county of Hamilton have united in a petition asking that an election be called for the purpose of choosing county officers, preliminary to the organization of said county:

Therefore, I David Butler, Governor of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority in me vested, do hereby order that an election be held, at the house of John Harris, in said county from 9 o'clock A. M. to 6 o'clock P. M., on Thursday, the 3rd day of May, A. D., 1870, for the purpose of choosing three county commissioners, one county clerk, and one county treasurer, one sheriff, one probate judge, one county surveyor, one county superintendent of public schools, one coroner, three judges of and two clerks of elections.

And I here designate and appoint John Laurie, Norris M. Bray and Jarvis Chaffee as judges, and Josiah D. Wescott and William D. Young, clerks, to conduct said election in accordance with the act for the organization of counties, approved June 24, 1867, and the election laws of the State.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and caused to be affixed the great seal of the State of Nebraska. Done at Lincoln, this thirteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and seventy, of the independence of the United States, ninety-fourth, and of this State the fourth.

By the Governor,

David Butler.

Thomas P. Kennard, Secretary of State.

In accordance with this proclamation, eighteen citizens, the voting population, assembled at the house of John Harris, in what is now known as Farmer's Valley Precinct, on the Blue River, May 2, 1870, and organized the county, electing the following officers, as shown by the certificate of this election filed in the county clerk's office, which is as follows:

For county-seat, south half of northeast quarter, and north half of southeast quarter, Section 22, Township 9 north, Range 6 west, and 18 votes being the whole number cast at the first election held in Hamilton county.

The officers elected were Josiah D. Wescott, county clerk; county commis-

sioners—William D. Young, Norris M. Bray, Alexander Laurie; Clarence O. Wescott, treasurer; George F. Dickson, sheriff; Robert Lamont, probate judge; John E. Harris, surveyor; John Laurie, superintendent public instruction; James Rollo, coroner.

Attest:

Josiah D. Wescott,

William D. Young,

Clerks of Election.

John Laurie,

Norris M. Bray,

Jarvis Chaffee,

Judges of Election.

The county-seat as located by the vote of the people, was named Orville City, and was surveyed by John Harris.

A court-house was built in May, 1872, in which the records of the county were kept until their removal to Aurora, January 1, 1876, at which date Aurora was made the county-seat after a long and bitter contest, during which five elections were held to decide the question of removal.

The question of removal was first submitted to vote in October, 1873, and resulted in favor of removal, upon which the commissioners decided that the electors of the county should, at the next general election, designate on their ballots the place of their choice. The next election was October 13, 1874, and resulted as follows: Aurora, 399; Hamilton, 147; Orville City, 53. The county clerk, William R. Mitchell, thereupon declared Aurora to be the county seat. The commissioners, however, rejected the decision, and refused to remove the records.

At this juncture Aurora mustered 150 of her faithful followers, and by the force of superior numbers captured the records and removed them to their present depository, but the following spring a writ of Mandamus compelled their removal back to Orville, and a third court house election was ordered.

Hamilton now entered the fight, and it became a three-cornered battle; the law required two thirds of all the votes polled to move a county seat, and on this ballot Aurora failed to get a sufficient number of votes, the vote standing, Aurora 394; Hamilton, 361; Orville, 5. Not dismayed by these unfruitful contests, Aurora quietly took its defeat, and in July, 1875, again succeeded in getting the question of removal submitted. After a hotly contested battle it was badly defeated, Hamilton getting a majority of thirty votes over Aurora, but not enough to remove the county seat from Orville, the election being Hamilton, 434; Aurora, 404; Orville, 3. The vanquished charged fraud, corruption, ballot-box stuffing, but at that time the trick of going behind the returning board was unknown, and Orville still held the much-coveted county seat.

The fifth election in this somewhat extensive series was, however, the Waterloo for both Hamilton and Orville. Aurora had by this time learned the tactics of its rivals, for when the last vote was counted Aurora had a majority of eighty over all, and its enemies laid down their arms. The votes at this last election were confined exclusively to the two principal contestants, Aurora receiving 481 and Hamilton 400.

Aurora, according to agreement, built a courthouse, which, together with the public square, was transferred to the county August 11, 1877. This had been one of the most hotly contested county seat fights ever known in the State, almost every man in the county taking an active part in it. A great deal of ill-will and bad blood resulted from it, causing a bitter sectional feeling to prevail, which



continued for many years, leaving its impress on the politics of the county, until time gradually healed the wounds and smoothed away the scars.

The following summary of commissioners' proceedings from 1872 to the present time is a record of the more important acts of that body: January 19, 1872, action to secure pre-emption of location for county seat; July 27, to establish each road district as a voting precinct, except North Blue, which constitutes one voting precinct; January 19, 1872, fix salary of probate judge \$100 per annum; August 10, 1872, appropriate \$250 to fencing square and planting trees; August 24, 1872, issue warrant for \$220 for payment pre-emption claim—county seat; order consolidation of Scoville and Deepwell as one voting precinct; December 9, 1872, order special election in Farmers' Valley, Orville and Scoville Precincts to vote on \$10,000 bonds to aid in building grist-mill;

March 23, 1873, first settlement with county treasurer since organization, balance on hand, \$409.33; April 21, 1873, contract for iron cell  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 7$  feet, 7 feet high, price, \$1,500; May 27, 1873, order submission of question of voting bonds in Aurora, Williamsport, Beaver Creek and North Blue Precincts, to aid in erection of wind grist-mill in Aurora; August 26, 1873, established Deepwell as election precinct, to include Townships 10 and 11, Ranges 7 and 8; September 3, 1873, order submission at next general election of re-location of county seat; December 1, 1873, the following record is made: "According to the canvass of the last election there was a majority of the votes cast for the removal of the county seat; it shall be the duty of the county board, in the notice for the next general election of 1874, to notify said electors to designate upon their ballots at said election the place of their choice for the county seat;

April 7, 1874, South Platte Precinct organized out of North Blue, to comprise Townships 12 and 13, Range 6; April 20, 1874, claim of Brown & England, attorneys in case of County vs. Union Pacific and Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Companies, allowed \$1,200; to appoint Stanford May probate judge in place of S. M. Hunter, resigned; re-district county as follows: First Commissioners' District, Townships 9 and 10, Ranges 5 and 6; Second Commissioners' District, Township 9, 10, 11 and 12, Ranges 7 and 8; Third Commissioners' District, Township 11, 12, 13, and 14, Ranges 5 and 6; May 11, 1874, S. W. Hunter appointed to fill vacancy as probate judge; June 9, 1874, special election called July 18, 1874, to vote on bonds for the construction of two bridges across the Platte;

July 6, 1874, bond election postponed to general election October, 1874; September 9, 1874, special election ordered on re-location of county seat; Bluff Precinct organized, comprising all territory lying north of Township 12, in Range 5; appoint E. D. Preston sheriff in place of J. M. Smith, resigned;

"Order that the clerk be instructed to destroy all claims against the county in his office;" October 13, 1874, W. K. Ream and Clinton Briggs employed to collect the Union Pacific and Burlington & Missouri taxes for the year 1873, for ten per cent; the vote on the re-election of county seat as ascertained by board of canvassers, presented, and the town of Aurora declared by county clerk to be the county seat of Hamilton County (on motion it was voted that the said declaration be rejected); December 8, 1874, "charges and articles of impeachment brought against William R. Mitchell, clerk, and J. H. Faris, treasurer,

by H. W. Hickox, received, and summons issued returnable December 14, 1874; charges and articles of impeachment filed against P. C. Housel, commissioner, by Darius Wilcox, summons issued returnable December 16; B. F. Isaman, commissioner, protests against all business transacted December 8, except settling with road supervisors; December 14, 1874, writ of injunction served on commissioners to restrain action in case of H. W. Hickox vs. William R. Mitchell; December 15, 1874, separate voting precincts formed of north half of Aurora Precinct;

January 5, 1875, special election ordered to vote on issuing \$60,000 aid bonds (the election resulted in their defeat, 559 voting against, to 23 for the bonds); Commissioners Nugent and Housel issued order commanding county clerks to return the property belonging to his office to Orville city against Monday, January 11, 1875 (this property was the records, etc., heretofore removed to Aurora).

March 5, 1875, a special election was ordered for April 6, to elect member of constitutional convention (J. H. Sauls was elected, receiving 207 out of 211 votes cast); Monroe Precinct, formed by cutting from Deepwell all of Townships 10, 11 and 12, Range 7; appropriation of 12½ per cent of taxes collected in case of Union Pacific Railroad Company vs. MeShane et al., in full settlement of attorney's fees of Brown & England; ordered county treasurer to pay Brown & England 20 per cent of taxes received from Union Pacific Railroad Company, for year 1872 as attorney's fees; April 6, 1875, election ordered for May 20, 1875, on relocation of county seat; suit ordered brought against Darius Wilcox, David Stone et al. for damages, for removal of county property from Orville City to Aurora; May 27, 1875, Hamilton Precinct created by cutting from Monroe, Township 10, Range 7; Union Precinct created by cutting from Seoville, Township 9, Range 7; election ordered for June 28, 1875, on relocation of county seat; special election ordered to vote on granting bonds to aid in construction of Midland Pacific Railroad, in Bluff Precinct, \$5,000; North Blue, \$5,000; South Platte, \$4,000 (election resulted, North Blue, yeas, 52, nays 0; Bluff, yeas, 35, nays, 0; South Platte, yeas, 52, nays, 8);

September 1, 1875, submission of question of re-location of county seat at general election, October 12, 1875; September 16, 1875, Briggs & Ambrose, of Omaha, retained to defend Hamilton County in action brought by Union Pacific Railroad Company to recover taxes heretofore paid; fee, 10 per cent of amount saved; ordered settlement with Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company for taxes of 1873-74, on basis of Judge Dillion's decision, October 28, 1875, election ordered for November 30, 1875, to vote on issuing bonds for \$89,000 to aid in construction of Nebraska Railway through the county (proposition was defeated, vote standing for bonds, 295; against bonds, 341); resignation of J. T. Price, as superintendent accepted; bids ordered for removal of all county property from Orville to Aurora immediately after January 1, 1876;

April 19, 1876, suit against Darius Wilcox et al. withdrawn; July 5, 1876, Township 11, Range 8, annexed to Monroe Precinct; \$1,000 appropriated to assist in building bridge across Platte east of Grand Island; September 16, 1876, A. W. Agee employed to attend suit brought by Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company to restrain treasurer from collecting tax for 1875; proposi-

tion to vote bonds for \$1,000, to complete and furnish court house (proposition defeated, for 84, against 595).

October 3, 1876, agreement with commissioners of Merrick County, for construction of wagon bridge across the Platte (Chapman bridge); Hamilton County to pay \$800 toward cost of bridge, and maintain in repair the bridge over south channel; November 8, 1876, established Cedar Valley Precinct, Township 13, Range 6; ordered that proceedings be begun on bond of Robert Miller et al, for failure to complete courthouse;

April 18, 1887, ordered that road supervisors work the north and west boundary lines of their districts; July 3, 1877, appropriate \$5,000 for construction of wagon bridge across Platte, Township 11, Range 8; incorporate town of Aurora; August 11, 1877, court house building accepted from the trustees of Aurora; suit against Robert Miller et al. discontinued; lightning rods ordered for court house at 32½ cents per foot; October 2, 1877, ordered the submission of township organization at the next general election, and also question of issuing funding bonds; November 14, 1877, Ed. Nugent resigned as commissioner; George M. Hollenbach resigned as surveyor; a majority of 371 of the votes cast having been in favor of issuing the funding bonds clerk was ordered to have prepared Series "A" 110 bonds of \$500 each, at 10 per cent per annum. interest payable semi-annually, bonds to mature in twenty years; December 4, 1877, negotiated \$10,000 at the funding bonds at 96 per cent of par value, and \$15,000 at 91 per cent, and placed \$30,000 in the hand of the county treasurer for negotiation at not less than 90 per cent; December 15, 1877, organized "Township," appointed officers, etc., under "Township Organization" law (the supreme court deciding the law unconstitutional, on February 5, 1878, the board annulled their action of December 15, 1877); appropriated \$5,000 to building Chapman bridge across the Platte; December 31, 1877, office of coroner declared vacant, and Goodman Noble appointed to fill the vacancy;

February 5, 1878, election ordered in Monroe Precinct, March 8, 1878, to vote on issuing \$1,200 bridge bonds vote resulted, for 71, against 2; March 13, 1878, D. A. Scovill appointed coroner; April 2, clerk ordered to contract for planting of trees in square; April 18, old court-house sold to W. H. Streeter for \$200; arranged for building jail 14x20 and ten feet high; provided for issuing Series "B," \$20,000 of funding bonds; May 8, William G. Brotherton appointed coroner.

June 18, reward of \$300 offered for the capture and return of H. C. Case, who broke jail Sunday night, June 16; August 2, appropriated \$125 to spike one half of Chapman bridge; August 14, issued the Monroe Precinct bridge bonds, \$1,200; appropriated \$641.50 for Chapman bridge; \$5,000 appropriated for building Hall County bridge, one end to be in Hamilton County;

January 6, 1879, settled in full with John Burlingham for recapture of H. C. Case for \$150; fixed salary of superintendent at \$4 per day actual service, January 29, met in joint session with commissioners of Hall County and settled in full for Grand Island bridge, issuing warrants for \$5,000; June 7, special election called to vote on the question of the bonds of the county for \$40,000—Aurora Precinct \$8,000 and Valley Precinct \$2,000, to aid in the construction of the Republican Valley Railroad (election resulted, for 956, against 238,

blank 7); July 1, settled attorney's fees, Briggs & Ambrose, for collecting taxes from Union Pacific Railroad Company, in accordance with contract September 16, 1875, for \$3,625; September 1, made provision for leasing poor-farm, formerly county seat; October 8, ordered question of appropriating \$1,500 for building poor-house submitted to vote at next general election, also sale of county lots in Aurora; November 17, issued \$50,000 bonds to Republican Valley Railroad;

October 5, 1880, ordered submission of question of selling county lots in Aurora to vote at the general election November 2, also of appropriation of \$2,000 to build poor-house;

January 15, 1881, salary of superintendent fixed at \$3.25 per day actual service; March 8, application ordered to be made to supreme court for mandamus to compel county clerk to report fees for year 1880, and pay over to county all in excess of \$2,050; April 19, vote on sale of lots declared carried—number voting, yeas, 349, nays, 206; May 19, appropriated \$70 to secure quit-claim deed from David and Mary A. E. Stone to county property in Aurora; August 16, levied tax of 10 per cent in School District No. 6 for payment of judgment of \$1,632.40 and costs \$108.06 in favor of School District No. 9 et al; also levy three mills tax on all taxable property in Beaver Precinct, formerly constituting School District No. 3, to pay balance of judgment of \$291.46 against said district; November 15, provided for construction of plank walks through the square, rescinded action levying tax of 10 per cent on School District No. 6;

January 11, 1882, accepted report of W. L. Whittemore, ex-county clerk, and case in supreme court dismissed; January 13, fixed pay of superintendent at \$3 per day; February 23, on request of D. P. Wilcox, board began reexamination of books of W. L. Whittemore, ex-county clerk; February 24, issued summons to W. L. Whittemore to appear and make further report; February 25, on examination find \$789.52 due county from Whittemore; April 19, settled in full with Whittemore; September 24, E. J. Haimer employed to prosecute T. C. Klumb, ex-county clerk, for fees not reported;

January 10, 1883, incorporated village of Hampton, with the following trustees: E. D. Foster, S. W. Holden, D. M. Zook, Levi Cox, M. E. Gerdes; February 14, George W. Pierce resigned as commissioner Second District, and S. N. Case appointed; February 28, county clerk ordered to purchase for the county all lots heretofore sold in Orville City, to clear title of "poor farm," price not to exceed amount received for same by the county; March 30, fixed per diem of superintendent at \$3.25; September 4, ordered the submission of question of township organization at next general election;

January 16, 1885, Haimer & Kellogg employed as county attorneys at \$400 April 4, W. K. Ream, county judge, requested to report fees, refused to do so in order to test constitutionality of the act; A. J. Rittenhouse ordered to take steps to compel rendition of report; May 29, Marquette incorporated— trustees, Elias Farr, J. W. Ward, J. J. Farley, C. F. Berry, Reuben Cox; June 10, incorporation of Marquette annulled; August 6, poor-house established on south half of the northeast quarter of Section 22, township 9, Range 6; September 16, Phillips Precinct established with the following boundaries: "Commencing on town line between Townships 10 and 11, on line dividing Hamilton and Merriek Counties, running thence east to the southeast corner of Section 31, Township

11, Range 7, thence north to the county line, dividing said counties, thence southwest along said county line to the place of beginning."

January 16, 1885, Hainer & Kellogg employed as county attorneys at \$400 per annum, fixed salary of superintendent at \$900.

January 28, established the following road district boundaries: No 38—Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 32 and 33, Township 11, Range 7;

No. 39—Sections 19, 30, 31, Township 11, Range 7, and Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, Sections 35 and 36, Township 11, Range 8;

No. 40—Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, Township 11, Range 7, and Sections 32 and 33, and fractional Sections 28, 29 and 21, Township 12, Range 7;

No. 50—Sections 34, 35, 36, 25, 26, 27, 22, 23, 24, 13, and fractional Sections 14, 15, 11 and 12, Township 12, Range 7;

No. 59—Sections 22, 27, 33, 34 and fractional Sections 21, 28, 29, 31 and 32 Township 11, Range 8;

No. 60—Sections 13, 14 and fractional Sections 1, 10, 11, 12, 15 and 16, Township 11, Range 7, and fractional Sections 30 and 31, Township 12, Range 7;

March 3, settled with T. C. Klumb in full for fees; May 19, grand jury having condemned jail as unsafe, resolved that a proposition be submitted to the electors, as therein recommended, for the building of a jail, and provided for commissioners visiting other jails in the State; June 2, appropriated \$250 for securing conviction of band of outlaws supposed to exist in the county; June 15, special term of district court requested, to try seven prisoners apprehended in the county; Western Union Detective Association employed to secure conviction of above band, and Hainer & Kellogg employed to prosecute them; July 7, \$350 additional to the \$250 heretofore appropriated for payment of detectives, having secured conviction of six of the outlaws; October 7, proposition to appropriate \$7,000 for building jail, ordered to be submitted at the general election November 3, 1885, and to appropriate \$3,500 to build addition to court-house; The proposition was defeated by the following vote: On jail proposition, for 404, against 1,325; court-house proposition, for 80, against 1,603;

February 2, 1886, death of Commissioner S. N. Case announced and suitable resolutions adopted; February 12, J. A. Kirk appointed to fill vacancy; salary of superintendent fixed at \$1,000; E. J. Hainer appointed county attorney for 1886, salary \$400.

February 9, boundaries of commissioner's districts confirmed as heretofore made; April 19, board convened by call of L. W. Shuman, acting clerk, announcing the death of J. M. Laurie, county clerk, April 17, 1886; suitable resolutions adopted; R. H. Peard appointed to fill vacancy;

July 7, on petition of Joe Skelton, St. Joe vacated; August 21, let contract for building addition to court-house, for \$1,025; October 6, require steam threshers, traction engines, etc., to protect bridges over which they cross; January 24, 1888, ordered the purchase of county funding bond of \$500 due January 1, 1893, drawing 10 per cent interest, for \$600; April 5, county attorney authorized and instructed to advertise for purchase of \$20,000 county bonds; May 31, purchased site for jail, price \$650; July 25, contracted for two steel cells for jail, price \$2,000; July 26, contracted for building jail as follows: Robert Miller, wood-work, \$1,746; D. Burt, mason work, \$2,526.66;

September 18, Stockham incorporated—trustees, F. J. Sharp, Joseph Stockham, W. C. Flickinger, Walter Scott, Henry Reisel; December 11, Bromfield incorporated—trustees, C. E. Brown, L. P. Wheeler, W. H. Leinberger, John McCarthy, Charles Allen;

February 28, 1889, Marquette incorporated—trustees, T. H. Line, S. P. Boyd, M. E. Farr, Reuben Cox, H. D. Hall; April 5, arranged to build bridge across the Platte, in conjunction with Merrick County; Hamilton county to build one-half of 425 feet; May 15, contracted for drinking fountain in square, price \$135; December 12 J. H. Smith having been appointed judge of the Sixth Judicial District, resigns as county attorney, and J. A. Whitmore appointed; January 17, 1890, the following Soldiers' Relief Committee appointed: F. C. Putnam, three years; L. W. Hastings, two years; Delevan Bates, one year.

#### ELECTION OF 1891-1892.

In the elections of 1891 and 1892, the victorious candidates for county offices in Hamilton County were:

County clerk, R. W. Shuman; county treasurer, Peter Farney; sheriff, A. J. McConaughy; clerk of district court, J. B. Cunningham; supt. of schools, M. F. Stanley; county judge, W. L. Stark; county attorney, John A. Whitmore; surveyor, C. W. Wilder; coroner, J. P. Hough; commissioners, Ed Huling, E. D. Shankland, B. F. Isaman, re-elected, James Cameron, elected. In 1892, David McKibben was elected.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION.

The election held in Hamilton County for November 7, 1893 was as follows:

For County Clerk:			
Frank A. Burt, pro.....	47	S. R. Sidders, pop.....	954
Wm. C. Bailey, rep.....	1071	F. M. Wilson, dem.....	243
R. G. McKibben, pop.....	896	For County Surveyor:	
L. W. Shuman, dem.....	704	D. B. Parks, rep & dem.....	1586
For County Treasurer:		For County Coroner:	
William J. Carver, rep.....	971	J. Pusey Chapman, rep.....	1350
Peter Farney, Jr., dem.....	789	J. P. Hough, pop.....	1134
John Litzenburg, pro.....	54	For County Sup't Public Inst.:	
A. P. Moberg, pop.....	903	Miss Mary Leonard, dem.....	658
For County Judge:		Marion F. Stanley, rep.....	1108
J. D. Hickman, pro.....	45	I. H. Winchell, pop.....	891
D. W. Long, dem.....	105	H. C. Wood, pro.....	42
A. V. B. Peck, rep.....	1211	For County Commissioner:	
Wm. L. Stark, pop.....	1237	O. F. Arnold, dem.....	156
For County Sheriff:		B. O. Bergeson, pop.....	275
M. Castle, pro.....	63	James W. Hummel, rep.....	486
A. J. McConaughy, rep.....	1431	E. S. Wood, pro.....	22

After the November election of 1894, which brought into office January, 1895, but few changes of county officers, the following were in office: County clerk, W. C. Bailey; county treasurer, Wm. J. Carver; sheriff, A. J. McConaughy; county superintendent of schools, M. F. Stanley; county judge, W. L. Stark; county attorney, John Day; county surveyor, D. B. Parks; county coroner, J. Pusey Chapman; county Commissioners, Harris A. Hall, new member,

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The election held in Hamilton County, November 6, 1895 was as follows:

For Supreme Judge:		For Sheriff:	
T. J. Mahoney	98	Alf Driesbach	1183
Samuel Maxwell	1165	A. J. McConaughey	1445
T. L. Norval	1185	County Superintendent:	
J. J. Phelps	63	S. R. Barton	1286
For County Treasurer:		Ed. Randall	1365
W. J. Carver	1345	For Commissioner:	
Peter Farney	1296	Joseph Magnusen	329
For Clerk District Court:		D. E. Price	546
J. B. Cunningham	1541	For County Clerk:	
Perry Parks	1088	W. C. Bailey	1333
For Surveyor:		Gus Peterson	1343
Oscar Berggren	1325	For County Judge:	
John De Volt	1235	J. H. Edmondson	1369
For District Judges:		D. A. Scovill	1236
Edward Bates	1249	For Coroner:	
M. Cain	123	C. E. Browne	1279
Howard M. Kellogg	1386	J. T. Gouher	1210
T. Sedwick	1145		
Robert Wheeler	1150		

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The results of the general election held in Hamilton County, November 3, 1896, were as follows:

For Governor:		For Senator—25th District:	
J. H. McCall	1307	D. Nettleton	1223
S. A. Holcomb	1548	L. L. Johnson	1349
For Lieut. Governor:		For Representatives:	
O. Tefft	1297	Wm. Cox	1253
J. E. Harris	1537	A. N. Thomas	1247
For Secretary of State:		J. H. Grosvenor	1411
J. A. Piper	1312	Dr. D. S. Woodard	1497
Wm. F. Porter	1511	For County Attorney:	
For State Auditor:		A. W. Agee	1303
P. O. Hedlund	1339	J. M. Day	1512
J. F. Cornell	1459	For Commissioner:	
For State Treasurer:		T. A. McKay	493
C. E. Casey	1339	Fred Hagemeister	450
J. B. Meserve	1526	The results of the general election	
For State Superintendent:		in 1897:	
H. R. Corbett	1318	Judge Supreme Court:	
Wm. R. Jackson	1514	A. M. Post, republican	1215
For Attorney General:		J. J. Sullivan, bimetalist	1532
A. S. Churchill	1355	For County Clerk:	
C. J. Smyth	1526	Oscar Berggren, rep.	1187
Commissioner Lands:		Gust Peterson, bim.	1592
H. C. Russell	1342	For Treasurer:	
J. V. Wolfe	1521	H. G. Ocker, rep.	1242
Regents University:		F. W. Hammond, bim.	1539
W. G. Whitmore	1336	For Sheriff:	
Thos. Rawlins	1492	A. J. McConaughey, rep.	1269
For Congress—4th District:		W. Z. Pollard, bim.	1507
E. J. Hainer	1308		
W. L. Stark	1602		

For County Judge:		C. E. Browne, bim.....	1493
T. J. Jones, rep.....	1104	For Surveyor:	
J. H. Edmondson, bim.....	1658	John Lyon, rep.....	1231
For County Superintendent:		E. S. Wood, bim.....	1529
E. S. Randall, rep.....	1263	For Commissioner:	
T. F. McCarthy, bim.....	1517	D. Ahara, rep.....	433
For Coroner:		T. J. Vorhees, bim.....	469
F. J. Bricker, rep.....	1264		

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The general election held in Hamilton county November 8, 1898, was as follows:

For Governor:		Representatives:	
M. L. Hayward, republican ...	1332	E. E. Eaton, republican .....	1317
Wm. A. Pointer, bimetalist ...	1496	I. H. Wildman, republican .....	1293
Congress—4th District:		D. S. Woodard, bimetalist .....	1517
Ed. H. Hinshaw, republican ...	1321	J. H. Grosvenor, bimetalist ...	1497
W. L. Stark, bimetalist .....	1538	County Attorney:	
State Senator—25th District:		M. F. Stanley, republican .....	1365
E. E. Mighell, republican .....	1364	J. J. Roach, bimetalist .....	1471
F. M. Howard, bimetalist .....	1468	Commissioner—2nd District:	
		Wm. Townsley, republican.....	364
		Ed. Price, bimetalist .....	582

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The election held in Hamilton County, November 7, 1899, was as follows:

For Supreme Judge:		For County Sheriff:	
Silas A. Holcomb .....	1628	W. Z. Pollard .....	1616
Manoah B. Reese .....	1350	B. F. Kiker .....	1455
State University Regents:		For County Judge:	
John L. Teeters .....	1569	A. R. Brownell .....	1583
Edson Rich .....	1474	G. F. Washburne .....	1467
William B. Ely .....	1331	For County Superintendent:	
Edmund G. McGilton .....	1311	T. F. McCarthy .....	1640
Charles E. Smith .....	84	J. E. Reed .....	1404
Albert Fitch .....	57	For District Court Clerk:	
For District Judge:		Fred Jeffers .....	1604
B. F. Good .....	1610	J. C. Work .....	1455
S. H. Sornberger .....	1506	For County Coroner:	
S. H. Sedgwick .....	1420	B. A. Munson .....	1613
Ross P. Anderson .....	1404	J. W. Brackett .....	1439
For County Clerk:		For County Surveyor:	
John Barnett .....	1574	Ellis Wood .....	1599
Jacob Bierbower .....	1472	D. B. Parks .....	1450
For County Treasurer:		For Commissioner—1st District:	
F. W. Hammond .....	1707	J. K. Hartuell .....	498
A. W. Harney .....	1319	T. A. McKay .....	583



## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The election held in Hamilton county November 6, 1900, was as follows:

For Governor:		Treasurer:	
Poynter, fusion	1563	Carver	1199
Dietrick, republican	1454	Cunningham	1231
Jones, prohibition	101	Ferris	67
Flick, mid. road	4	Clerk:	
Kharas, socialist	4	Isaman	1341
For Congressman:		Barnett	1284
Stark, fusion	1595	Beck	69
Pope, republican	1331	Sheriff:	
Burhans, prohibition	67	Klumb	1379
For State Senator:		Howell	1228
Reuting, fusion	1566	Judge:	
Bonekemper	1446	Coats	1330
Maze, prohibition	74	Brownell	1279
For Representatives:		Superintendent:	
Edmondson, fusion	1608	Stephenson	1292
Neptune, fusion	1399	Woodard	1337
Whitmore, republican	1423	Surveyor:	
Zierott, republican	1266	Berggren	1343
Wilder, prohibition	64	Wood	1315
Williams, prohibition	69	Coroner:	
County Attorney:		Haughey	1372
Roach, fusion	1609	Munson	1219
Smith, republican	1492	Commissioner—2nd District:	
For Commissioner:		Anderson	365
Vorhees, fusion	494	Sorenson	396
Johns, republican	509	Commissioner—3rd District:	
Litzenburg, prohibition	26	Cudney	492
The returns in 1901 were:		Barnes	383
Supreme Judge:			
Sedgwick	1323		
Hollenbeck	1235		

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The election held in Hamilton county, November 4, 1902, was as follows:

For Governor:		Representatives:	
Mickey	1344	Anderson	1349
Thompson	1341	Cunningham	1307
Davies	62	Kirk	1223
Bigelow	3	Neptune	1275
Lieut. Governor:		Camp	55
McGilton	1368	Ricker	60
Gilbert	1294	County Attorney:	
Lightner	78	Stanley	1304
Congress:		Edmondson	1313
Hinshaw	1328	Commissioner:	
Stark	1340	McKay	491
Farley	65	Kerr	463
State Senator:		Ferris	29
Cox	1396	Amendment:	
Peterson	1255	For	472
J. I. Norton	16	Against	225

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The general election held in Hamilton county, November 3, 1903, was as follows:

Judge of Supreme Court:		Frank B. Fellingham, prohibi-	
John D. Barnes, republican	1427	tion	62
John J. Sullivan, fusion	1343	County Sheriff:	
Geo. I. Wright, prohibition	82	J. J. Klumb, republican	1756
C. E. Christianson, socialist	16	J. W. Taylor, fusion	1144
Regents State University:		R. E. Yost, prohibition	72
Chas. S. Allen, republican	1472	County Coroner:	
Wm. G. Whitmore, republican	1475	C. D. Husted, republican	1471
Wm. O. Jones, fusion	1322	F. E. Gordon, fusion	1360
Ernest O. Weber, fusion	1295	G. W. Cass, prohibition	97
C. A. Barber, prohibition	70	County Treasurer:	
R. B. Muir, prohibition	68	N. C. Christensen, rep.	1354
T. B. Lippencott, socialist	18	J. B. Cunningham, fusion	1578
F. S. Wilber, socialist	16	J. L. Hilliard, pro.	48
Judges of District Court:		County Clerk:	
Jerome H. Smith, republican	1435	J. A. Isaman, rep.	1416
Arthur J. Evans, republican	1406	J. W. Marvel, fusion	1504
S. H. Sornborger, fusion	1452	L. D. Camp, prohibition	45
B. F. Good, fusion	1462	County Surveyor:	
Clerk District Court:		Oscar Berggren, rep.	1795
K. M. Shankland, republican	1344	County Superintendent:	
Fred Jeffers, fusion	1595	John Lyon, republican	1274
County Assessor:		John Woodard, fusion	1693
B. F. Anderson, republican	1330	Commissioner,—3rd District:	
Ellis Wood, fusion	1605	L. T. Cudney, republican	1406
County Judge:		H. H. Leymaster, fusion	1486
C. A. Coats, republican	1526	C. J. Swanson, prohibition	50
A. R. Brownell, fusion	1374		

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION

The General election held in Hamilton county, November 8, 1904, was as follows:

Constitutional Convention:		State Treasurer:	
For	407	P. Mortensen, rep.	1580
Against	272	J. M. Osborne, fus.	1258
Preference for U. S. Senator:		J. P. Heald, pro.	145
Elmer J. Burkett, rep.	1568	C. M. Sterns, soc.	24
Governor:		State Auditor:	
J. H. Mickey, rep.	1322	E. M. Searle, rep.	1551
G. W. Berge, fusion	1516	J. S. Canaday, fus.	1273
C. F. Swander, pro.	146	S. T. Davies, pro.	143
B. H. Vail, socialist	21	T. P. Lippincott, soc.	24
Lieut. Governor:		County Commissioner:	
E. H. McGilton, rep.	1504	F. O. Jenison, rep.	1562
A. Townsend, fusion	1322	D. Sorenson, fus.	1263
Isaiah Lightner, pro	146	M. J. Peterson, pro.	114
Thos. Carrol, soc.	27	Attorney General:	
Secretary of State:		Norris Brown, rep.	1555
A. Galusha, rep.	1530	E. H. Whelan, fus.	1274
R. E. Watzke, fus.	1290	M. I. Brower, pro.	144
S. Larson, pro.	148	L. L. McIlvaine, soc.	21
W. N. Parcell, soc.	25		

Land Commissioner:

H. M. Eaton, rep.	1579
A. A. Worsley, fus.	1249
A. J. Thompson, pro.	142
A. D. Peugh, soc.	22

State Superintendent:

J. L. McBrien, rep.	1586
A. Softley, fus.	1274
M. P. Roe, soc.	37

Congressman:

E. H. Hinshaw, rep.	1560
C. F. Gilbert, fus.	1288
G. I. Wright, pro.	146

State Senator:

C. H. Epperson, rep.	1628
G. A. Herzog, fus.	1279
R. W. Boyd, pro.	170

State Representatives:

Chas. Anderson, rep.	1476
A. V. Cunningham, rep.	1436
Ira Bush, fus.	1359
T. G. Graham, fus.	1404
C. A. Fox, pro.	120
John Litzenburg, pro.	111

County Attorney:

M. F. Stanley, rep.	1617
J. H. Edmondson, fus.	1316

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION, 1905:

Supreme Judge:

Letton, republican	1324
Hastings, fusion	1103
Beall, prohibition	133

Regents:

Abbot, republican	1340
Lyford, republican	1309
Cole, fusion	1075
Lightner, fusion	1031
Sutton, prohibition	123
Wilson, prohibition	122

County Clerk:

Schonover, republican	1254
Marvel, fusion	1343

County Treasurer:

Nordgren, republican	1276
Wanek, fusion	1309

County Sheriff:

Klumb, republican	1424
Engen, fusion	1127

County Judge:

Washburn, republican	1386
Edmondson, fusion	1157

County Superintendent:

Stephenson, republican	1442
Phillips, fusion	1115

County Coroner:

Hustead, republican	1399
Welch, fusion	1076

County Surveyor:

Berggren, republican	1609
Burt, prohibition	412

County Commissioner:

McKay, republican	1339
Entrekin, fusion	1187

Soldier Monument:

Yes	1265
No	508

In 1906 the new officers elected were: County attorney, John H. Grosvenor, and H. H. Leymaster, county commissioner.

HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION, 1907:

Supreme Judge:

Reese, republican	1504
Lomis, fusion	1266

District Judges:

Evans, republican	1394
Power, republican	1341
Corcoran, fusion	1523
Good, fusion	1540

County Clerk:

Newton, republican	1475
Saylor, fusion	1545

County Treasurer:

Hockenbary	1180
Waney, Fusion	1856

Clerk District Court:

Coats, republican	1394
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Jeffers, fusion	1499
Herbig, prohibition	137

County Sheriff:

Murphy, republican	1376
Young, fusion	1609

Coroner:

Hustead, republican	1442
Woodard, fusion	1520

Commissioner—2nd District:

Jemison, republican	1522
Jackett, fusion	1290
Peterson, prohibition	167

Assessor:

Foss, republican	1333
Genoways, fusion	1544
Cass, prohibition	145

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION, 1908:

For Governor:		Commissioner P. L. & B.:	
Sheldon, republican	1652	Cowles, republican	1639
Sallenbier, democratic	1636	Eastham, democratic	1599
Lieut. Governor:		R. R. Commissioner:	
Hopewell, republican	1643	Williams, republican	1683
Garrett, democratic	1617	Cowgill, democratic	1655
Secretary of State:		Congressman:	
Junkin, republican	1648	Hinshaw, republican	1704
Gatewood, democratic	1610	Gilbert, democratic	1591
Auditor of Public Accounts:		State Senator:	
Barton, republican	1845	Cox, republican	1723
Price, democratic	1527	Brown, democratic	1620
State Treasurer:		Representatives:	
Brian, republican	1704	O'Hara, republican	1639
Mackey, democratic	1636	Foss, republican	1626
Superintendent Public Institution:		Boyd, democratic	1753
Bishop, republican	1710	Evans, democratic	1735
Abbott, democratic	1623	County Attorney:	
Attorney General:		Grosvenor, democratic	1810
Thompson, republican	1717	Bald, pet	827
Fleaharty, democratic	1635	Commissioner—1st District:	
		McKay, republican	1556
		Haskins, democratic	1810

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION, 1909:

Judges of the Supreme Court:		County Clerk:	
James R. Dean	1382	D. H. Saylor	1461
Benjamin F. Good	1492	H. E. Newton	1459
John J. Sullivan	1393	County Treasurer:	
John B. Barnes	1360	E. S. Wood	1566
Jacob Fawcett	1350	H. R. Greer	1365
Samuel H. Sedgwick	1365	County Judge:	
Regents of the State University:		George F. Washburn	2040
Charles T. Knapp	969	County Sheriff:	
Charles S. Allen	1530	J. B. Young	1465
W. G. Whitmore	1540	J. J. Klumb	1426
D. C. Cole	467	County Superintendent:	
Frank E. Lynch	171	Minnie Fleming	1408
John H. Vonsteen	165	Samuel C. Stephenson	1547
A. T. Hunt	48	County Surveyor:	
Wm. Wemmer	46	Oscar Berggren	2523
Regents to fill vacancy:		County Coroner:	
Harvey E. Newbraeh	1272	J. M. Woodard	1605
Frank L. Haller	1450	A. B. Walker	1235
A. L. A. Schiermeyer	47	Commissioner—3rd District:	
		Uriah Bush	1544
		L. T. Cudney	1344

## HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION, 1910:

People's Choice U. S. Senator:		Birmingham, prohibition	
Burkett, republican	1600		62
Hitchcock, democratic	1442	Lippincott, socialist	51

Governor:		Whitney, democratic	1133
Aldrick, republican	1995	Terry, pop.	238
Dahlman, democratic	1141	Burleigh, prohibition	57
Wright, socialist	61	Commissioner Public Lands & Blds.:	
Lieut. Governor:		Cowles, republican	1672
Hopewell, republican	1699	Eastham, democratic	1355
Clark, democratic	1338	Olmstead, prohibition	64
Lichty, prohibition	57	Railroad Commissioner:	
Slutter, socialist	57	Clarke, Jr., republican	1688
Secretary of State:		Hayden, democratic	1347
Wait, republican	1703	Moss	66
Pool, democratic	1304	Congressman—4th District:	
Wittstruck, prohibition	79	Sloan, republican	1591
Cushing, socialist	60	Good, democratic	1530
Auditor:		State Senator:	
Barton, republican	2038	Cox, republican	1624
Hewitt, democratic	1056	Hansen, democratic	1208
Lambert, prohibition	56	McDermott, by petition	305
State Treasurer:		State Representatives:	
George, republican	1658	Neir, republican	1639
Hall, democratic	1338	Nordgren, republican	1874
Fitch, prohibition	87	Evans, democratic	1355
Burns, socialist	56	Boyd, democratic	1197
State Superintendent:		County Attorney:	
Crabtree, republican	1695	Stanley, republican	2152
Jackson, democratic	1361	County Commissioner:	
Jeffries, prohibition	73	Berggren, republican	1724
Amendment:		Hammond, democratic	1333
Yes	1588	Roadhouse Proposition:	
No	757	Yes	785
Attorney General:		No	1403
Martin, republican	1685		

## COUNTY OFFICERS SINCE 1910.

The election in 1911 brought forth practically the same set except Fred Jeffers as County Judge.

The officers who have served since then have been:

For 1913 and 1914: County clerk, J. J. Klumb; county treasurer, Ellis S. Wood; Clerk of district court, J. W. Weedon; sheriff, Jno. F. Powell; county superintendent of schools, E. W. Jackson; county judge, Fred Jeffers; county surveyor, Oscar Berggren; county coroner, J. W. Woodard; county assessor, A. S. Estrekin; county attorney, Whitney; county commissioners, Uriah Bush, G. C. Eaton, Jno. W. Minton.

For 1915 and 1916: County clerk, J. J. Klumb served in 1915, and Henry V. Nelson was elected in 1916; county treasurer, F. L. McCarty; clerk of district court, J. W. Weedon; sheriff, Jno. F. Powell; county superintendent of schools, Margaret A. McConnell; county judge, Fred Jeffers; county surveyor, Oscar Berggren; county coroner, J. W. Woodard; county assessor, A. S. Estrekin; county attorney, Whitney; commissioners, Uriah Bush, G. C. Eaton, Jno. W. Minton.

For 1917 and 1918: County clerk, Henry V. Nelson; county treasurer, F. L. McCarty; clerk of district court, J. W. Weedon; sheriff, J. E. Howard; county

superintendent of schools, A. S. Nelson; county judge, Fred Jeffers; county surveyor, Oscar Berggren; county coroner, J. W. Woodard; county assessor, B. O. Bergeson; county attorney, Whitney; county commissioners, G. C. Eaton, Jno. W. Minton, E. W. Hahn.

For 1919 and 1920: County clerk, H. V. Nelson; county treasurer, H. E. Toof; clerk of district court, J. W. Weedon; sheriff, J. E. Howard; county superintendent of schools, A. S. Nelson; county judge, Fred Jeffers; county surveyor, Oscar Berggren; county coroner, Edgerton; county assessor, B. O. Bergeson; county attorney, Whitney served in 1919-20 and Frank E. Edgerton was elected in 1920; county commissioners, G. C. Eaton, Jno. W. Minton, E. W. Hahn.

1921 and 1922: County clerk, H. V. Nelson; county treasurer, H. E. Toof; clerk of district court, J. W. Weedon; sheriff, J. E. Howard; county superintendent of schools, A. S. Nelson; county judge, Fred Jeffers; county surveyor, Oscar Berggren; county coroner, J. J. Reinhardt; county assessor, Frank E. Edgerton, who resigned in the fall of 1920 and J. J. Reinhardt was appointed; county commissioners, G. C. Eaton, Jno. W. Minton and E. W. Hahn.

WAS A VERY LONESOME DEMOCRAT  
VERD GLOVER WAS ONE OF FIVE DEMOCRATS IN THE COUNTY  
AND MADE FIRST CALL FOR CONVENTION—THE PETER FARNEY  
TREASURY FIGHT WAS A WARM ONE AND LED TO THE  
PASSAGE OF INTEREST LAW

Of course I felt lonesome—leaving Illinois, as I did, in the midst of the campaign of 1876, when everything was at fever heat as between Hayes and Tilden, with no thought of Peter Cooper. While at Lincoln, waiting for a train to Harvard (no railroad at Aurora then), I found the greenback, or Peter Cooper, state convention had just adjourned and delegates were going home. All I heard was what they were going to do when Peter Cooper was president. Well, I got my share of fun out of it in a quiet way, as I usually do, and when I got home I found father and brother Tom ranting greenbackers and brother William grieving because he had no ticket. I did hear two or three in this county who cut democratic tickets from the newspapers and voted them. In the spring of 1877 brother Charley came, George Wildish and Rittenhouse. Then we could count five democrats and we began to feel better. In '77 the only county tickets were greenback and republican. We were nonpartisan, but got George Wildish on the ticket for county attorney. Though he was not a believer in the greenback idea, he was elected. The next year, '78, was the election of legislative ticket and state officers. They were to make laws and probably elect a U. S. Senator. When we met we would talk it over with voters from any part of the county who had democratic tendencies, getting what encouragement we could, and which I must admit was little—and when the time came in '78 I wrote up and had published a call for a democratic mass convention to be held at the court house in Aurora, giving date and purpose.

And the "mass" convention was held; present, George Wildish, A. J. Rittenhouse, William Glover, C. R. Glover, and myself. After waiting all day for some one to come from the country to help, we five in the evening called meeting to order on the front steps of the court house and selected C. R. Glover as a democrat candidate for the legislature, and myself as a delegate to the state

convention. No selection of county committee was made, it being understood that each was to do all he could to win and pay his own expenses. The rest of our ticket was the state and senatorial candidates as nominated by the democrats. We took our tickets to the greenback paper to have them printed, but were turned down, and the Republican was too busy to get them out before election, which they seemed to think would do us just as much good and help them more, as they thought we would vote their ticket in preference to the greenback ticket. So we sent the job to Dr. George Miller, of the Omaha Herald. After getting them back there came some more lonesomeness. No committee and no democrat that we knew in any of the precincts to send them to. All five of us were in Aurora precinct to look after it, and on Monday morning I took the ballots for Beaver, Farmers Valley, Orville, Union, Scoville, Deepwell and Hamilton. At that time what is now Phillips was a part of Deepwell. C. R. took the ballots to the balance, or north half of the county, both of us hunting up some democrat to leave them with, urging them to do their best the next day, and each of the five were to do some special work that day—and we did it well; result, 126 democratic votes in Hamilton county.

While at the state convention I first heard Morton speak. Some democrats wanted to endorse, fuse or combine with the greenback ticket, and that is what stirred up Mr. Morton, and in time he woke up the democrats, and I, who was new at the business, could not help saying something when some one had his gall to ask why Hamilton county had anything to say about what they should do, as he had never heard of a democrat in that county before. I merely answered by saying "that's all right, but you will always have them with you hereafter." And I have done my part in making good on that, having attended more than twenty conventions as a delegate, and several times when I was not a delegate. We as a party had our ups and downs. We at times combined with the greenbackers and anti-monopolists when we could get a fair share of the ticket, otherwise we went it alone, regardless of what party would benefit, and although our platforms or resolutions were generally very much different, we worked in harmony for the ticket after it was made up.

This continued until the anti-monopolists dropped out and this at last left a clear field and fair fight as between the republicans and democrats of this county. Up to this time the county treasurers had been having the interest on county funds for their individual use, although it had often been talked that this interest belonged to the county. Therefore, as democrats, we took that as our motto and our platform was a pledge to the people—and our candidate accepted the same—that all interest derived from county funds should be turned back to the treasury of the county and become a part of the regular funds of the county. The committee at that time, of which I was chairman, found this to be no small matter. A quiet canvass of the county was at first made for available men. Talk about secret meetings and private caucuses! Yes, we had them, and one after another was dropped from the list, some who knew they were being considered and others who did not, until it got down to four, then three of them absolutely refused. One wanted it, but was afraid, as republicans had threatened to arrest and send him to prison for violation of law. The other did not know he was even being talked of, but was very strongly in favor of its being done. It was more of a task to secure the right man and one

that everybody knew would carry out the reform if elected. The man who could have had the nomination, and wanted it, but was afraid, after an hour of private talk refused. This left but one such as was desired, and his nearest friends and best acquaintances said we must say nothing to him about his being the candidate, but they in his own precinct would put him on the delegation to help select one who would do this.

In this manner Peter Farney was nominated and had accepted before he hardly realized what he was doing. This was, as you all know who were here, a hard fought battle between the republicans and democrats. The populists were just then organized and have always tried to claim a lot of credit for this. It did not originate with them and was no part of their platform. It was either vote for or against Peter on that resolution and pledge, as there was but one other candidate.

But I will here give the pops credit for one thing they did do in two years after Farney was elected and made good his pledge and the democratic platform. They kindly notified the democrats that they would hold their county convention and nominate Peter Farney for a second term, the democrats to hold their convention and endorse him. This would insure his election. If you won't do this, they told the democrats, but hold your convention first, we will nominate another man and beat him at the polls. I was still chairman of our county committee and was about as lonesome a democrat as I was from '76 to '78. As such I refused to grant this privilege. It was a principle we, as democrats, had established and on this we would win or lose.

To settle the question, I called representative democrats from all sections of the county to meet in private caucus, which they did, and a hotter discussion and meeting I never got into. After an hour or so of pros and cons, whys and wherefores, we came out of that meeting as democrats to nominate our own ticket in our own way—and when the pops put their call in the papers for their county convention I put a call for ours one week earlier. We met and renominated Mr. Farney and the balance of our ticket, and one week later the pops met and made good their threat—nominating the very same man who had refused to be our candidate two years before, because he was afraid, but as Farney had made good, he was not afraid any more. This made it a very hard and disagreeable task, but the democrats again won and Farney was re-elected.

The Sun, which was then controlled by Hurlburt and Metzger, had a big part in the fight for the rights of the people, as well as the committee workers. It would seem from all this work and the outcome with such grand and good results that no democrat should ever after be lonesome as such.

But not so, for a few years later I, with others in this county, found ourselves very lonesome and at a time when we had a democrat president and congress, called to those positions as receivers to adjust the affairs of a panic stricken government, brought about by the foolish acts of the Harrison and former republican administrations in the purchase of silver and the giving of notes to circulate money. Lonesome? Yes—I guess so, with the panic, the drouth and failure of crops. It was no wonder that members of all parties, republicans, democrats and populists, were ready to accept anything that afforded relief. But the democrat president, Grover Cleveland, stood firm for a sound financial policy, though his party and all others were divided on that question, and he won,



and at the end of his term as president turned it over to his republican successor with a good, sound financial basis. And Mr. McKinley was elected on a pledge to continue this same foundation, not alone by republicans, for thousands of lonesome democrats assisted in his election; but had he lived he might have, and it is believed by many he would, have added to and given us an improved currency and banking system. But alas! Those of his party who have followed him in this respect have proven complete failures, for all they seemed to think of was some plan that would concentrate more power in the hands of the few by high tariff, a single central bank of issue and other measures intended to curtail the rights of the people and place it in control of our senators at Washington.

But we are lonesome no more, for the people once more saw the error of the republicans and called our Woodrow Wilson and a democrat congress to take charge, and in the three and one-half years they have had charge they have corrected the evils in the currency and banking systems of the country and have put panics out of the question for all future time, so far as national affairs are concerned, and in addition have given us more good, constructive legislation that is and will be of lasting benefit to all the people than any other administration since the beginning of our government. No, I am not lonesome now, but it is pleasing to have republicans admit that all of their presidents, but Lincoln and McKinley, were failures, as they never refer to any of the others—always those two, when in fact both were elected with the assistance of democrat voters. Why, God bless you—Lincoln for his second term was not nominated nor elected as a republican, but was as a unionist, made up of republicans and democrats. The leaders of his party were against him, but were forced to take him a second time, and the pity of it was that he was not permitted to live out his second term, for I have always believed he would have driven this corrupt element out of control and the reconstruction of our united government would have been accomplished in a much shorter time, with better results.

With this I close, as a democrat who is not lonesome and does not expect to be.

A. M. GLOVER.

#### POPULIST MOVEMENT IN HAMILTON COUNTY

BY GEO. L. BURR

The history of Hamilton county would be by no means complete without an account of its part in the great populist movement that originating from the gathering together of farmers in the Farmers Alliance developed in the year 1890 into separate political action. In this county the leaders of the Farmers Alliance movement were F. M. Howard, Valentine Horn, J. T. Vorhes, M. H. Severy, R. D. Heist, William H. Fall, Carl Huenefeld, M. Pressler, Frank Hammond, Fred Newberry, E. D. Snider, A. P. Moberg, John Rapp, J. F. Barrett, Ellis Wood, T. F. McCarty, Frank Munn, Joe Kirk, Eldoras Lane, Albert Cleal, John Dodds, William Tucker, George Sands, Frank Sands, Dave McKibben, Ed Price, Scott Mattern, Dennis McCarty, B. O. Bergeson, J. F. Bishop, I. K. Winchell, J. W. Woods, Emerson Cutts, D. L. Hackett, H. H. Gillespie, S. R. Barton, W. H. Sayles, Tom Graham, Claus Anderson, Elmer Beabout, E. C. Purdy, Philip Brown, A. R. Brownell, I. N. Schenk, D. W. Long, J. F. Adams, J. W. Heuring, Sib Travis, Chris Hemmingsen, T. F. Castle, B. F. Richards, George Broadbent, J. W. Bowen, M. F. Huffman, Ed Cutts, Dr. C. E. Browne,

J. W. Eaton, William Fall, Nat Payne, Jonathan Foster, J. D. Fye, Warren Jones and F. M. Barnes, and others. Organization was effected in every precinct, and such was the dissatisfaction with the state officials of the dominant policy, that republicans and democrats alike felt the need of a movement that would unite the dissatisfied of both older parties and secure desired changes in legislation. City officials in 1904: Jos. Neptune, mayor; J. R. Davidson, Jas. Schoonover, T. G. Hedgecock, June Keimb, A. W. Downey, J. R. Ronin, councilmen.

One of the earliest and most bitterly contested issues was whether or not county treasurers should be privileged to deposit county funds in a bank of their choice and receive for themselves interest thereon. The state treasurers had been doing this for years and the custom spread until in most counties the chief issue of every election was which financial institution should receive county deposits through favor of the treasurer, dividing with him the advantage resulting from their use. This led to corrupt politics, and other offices were traded to secure results on this one until there was a widespread protest against the custom. It was in Hamilton county that this protest first led to the nomination of a candidate pledged to return to the county treasury all interest received on public funds, there being at that time a considerable sinking fund accumulating to pay railroad bonds at maturity. Just as it was a Hamilton county case that a decade or more later brought forth a decision on this question from our State Supreme Court. The man chosen was Peter Farney, who had the confidence of farmers generally and such was the party feeling that he was accused of trying to bribe votes by this promise to thus give them back their own, and he was threatened with the penitentiary if he persisted in carrying out his promise. The election of 1890 contained this issue as well as that of an uprising against what was known as the "Tom Benton state house ring," and not only the state ticket, but the congressional as well was bitterly contested. In selecting a congressman to represent the new movement the choice of this county fell upon Valentine Horn, of Phillips, an Alliance leader, and he came within a very few votes of nomination, the nomination going to William McKeighan. The republicans named N. V. Harlan of York county, an anti-monopoly republican of ability, who was deserted by the railroad element of that party, making the victory of McKeighan a sweeping one.

In this county J. T. Vorhes and Fred Newberry were chosen as representatives, there being six in the field: M. Kohn and .....for the democrats and Ed. Nugent and .....for the republicans. William H. Fall was elected sheriff and Peter Farney, treasurer. Judge William L. Stark, elected by the republicans as county judge, became during that campaign affiliated with the new movement and afterward grew to be one of its prominent state and national leaders.

In the legislative session following no county representatives took a more prominent part than those from Hamilton county. Valentine Horn introduced a bill providing for the payment of all interest money by state and county treasurers to the public treasury, and this was passed. Fred Newberry introduced a measure that afterward received national fame, and the Newberry law marked the first attempt to control corporation greed which made freight rates, "all the traffic would bear." He secured the passage of the measure in the first legislature, and it was vetoed by Governor Boyd. Later, the people remaining

insistent, the law was passed and a long legal battle ensued, it finally becoming the basic measure of relief from both freight and passenger extortion, and the efforts of these men and the party they represented were responsible for two great reforms. Our members were also prominent in the passage of the Australian ballot law, which gave a secret ballot in place of one in which corporations could control the votes of employes, and which abolished the printing in of the names of nominees of one party on the ticket of others which had resulted in confusing and misleading voters.

In 1892 at David City, Hamilton county delegates voted solidly for W. L. Stark for district judge, and Messrs. Wheeler and Sornberger being nominated there was a fusion between the gold standard element of the democratic party with the republicans to defeat them. Not being successful in securing the nomination of Stark for this office, Hamilton county representatives asked for the nomination of congressman for their favorite. At the Seward convention he was only prevented from obtaining the nomination by the influence of the populist state committee, which favored William H. Dech, an irresponsible and not very creditable man from Saunders county. Dech was nominated by a very close vote, and by a shrewd trick on the part of Tobias Castor, a railroad worker, who sent a railroad striker from Bee to talk for Stark with two old farmers who were casting the votes of Thayer and Jefferson counties. This man pretended to be working for Stark, and urged these men to support him on the ground that he was "a sharp, shrewd lawyer and that his opponent Mr. Dech was a farmer." He knew the men he was talking to were farmers and though they had given their word to come to Stark on the third ballot, they did not like to hear that kind of talk. He was not yet out of sight when another man sent by Castor asked the farmers if they knew who had been talking with them. They said they did not. "Well," said the messenger, "that is one of the worst railroad strikers in the state of Nebraska. I don't know what he told you fellows to do, but whatever it was, you just do the other thing. Just ask anybody who that man is, and vote different to what he told you." It was not difficult to verify the charge that he was a railroad striker, and for the balance of that convention neither of those farmers would give Stark any assistance whatever, and with the help of the state committee Dech beat him. The republicans took advantage of the situation and nominated E. J. Hainer, also of Hamilton county, for congress. He beat Dech over four thousand votes, but in receiving his defeat, Mr. Stark made a speech of such eloquence and devotion to principle that nothing could prevent his nomination two years from that time. An effort was made to secure the endorsement of the democrats, and the Bryan element being in the majority, Harry Metzger and others came near procuring the endorsement, but gold standard democrats containing proxies under representations that they would abide the will of the majority were successful in preventing it, and nominating a none too creditable man from Saline county named S. S. Alley. they succeeded in diverting enough votes to defeat Stark at the polls. He was inclined to be discouraged and allow others to make the effort next time, but his friends rallied around him and insisted on his taking another nomination in 1896. And taking his previous defeat with the greatest good nature he went about the district telling how he and his next door neighbor had a contest to see which should represent the district in congress; how Mr. Hainer got the most votes and left him

at home to take care of the town. They were again candidates for the same office and he thought it his turn to receive a majority and that Mr. Hainer be left at home to take care of the town. E. J. Hainer, a leading Hamilton county republican, had then served four years, was a great favorite of Speaker Reed, was on important committees and was on the point of achieving more than a state reputation, but by the mutations of politics found himself beaten and for the next six years the district was creditably represented by W. L. Stark, making a period of ten consecutive years when the county furnished this important official to the Fourth district.

Hamilton county, too, was the original home county of Governor Silas A. Holcomb, elected by the populists and democrats, though at the time of his election he came from Broken Bow. When in this county he was a school-teacher, and among the leading instructors of the county, though not better than others who never achieved fame.

For many years the populists continued to be the chief factor in Hamilton county politics. They sent not only Newberry and Vorhes to the legislature and Valentine Horn to the senate, but elected J. H. Edmonson, Dr. D. S. Woodard, J. H. Grosvenor, Fred Jeffers and Senator F. M. Howard to these positions, and for twenty years, though the republicans had a majority most of the time on the state ticket, they would elect a large part of the county officers with the help of the Bryan democrats, who were so closely allied to them that no near-sighted man could tell the difference; they would manage to nose in a few votes ahead on most of the contests, and J. B. or "Jap" Cunningham, J. H. Edmondson, J. M. Day, Gust Peterson, Judge Fred Jeffers, Judge Brownell, Frank Hammond, and a number of others in addition to those mentioned held office and conducted affairs in an economical and businesslike manner, giving the county many thousands of dollars in interest that it never would otherwise have received, the state being conducted for an assessment per county that would look strangely to the taxpayer of today.

This led to reform and emulation on the part of the republicans, and in a few years the party of Tom Benton's ring were sending men like John A. Whitmore to the legislature. The courthouse was built and furnished for a little over \$60,000. Hamilton county republicans and populists alike were entitled to the credit of keeping a corporation senator from going to Washington. The republicans under leadership of Aldrich were responsible for a law regulating freight charges and we took a leading part in the legislature, being represented by W. I. Farley, while George L. Sheldon was governor, assisting in many practical reforms, the two cent fare law being among the number, and the convention receiving its knockout from the primary at that session.

Among the incidents of those stirring contests was one occurring when Gust Peterson, of the firm of Peterson Brothers & Co., defeated W. C. Bailey, one of the most popular candidates for county clerk the republicans could have named. The vote was very close and it occurred to his counsel to hold on to the office, throw the contest into the courts, and trust to good fortune to be able to hold it as they had a county commissionership not long before. They refused to turn over the office, employed the firm of Hainer & Smith, good lawyers, and might have succeeded had it not been for the Swedish people, quite largely republican, who did not think one of their nationality was getting a square deal.

They came in on Saturday six hundred strong. Bailey afterward said the suspense was the hardest thing to bear. A little knot of men would gather, gesticulate excitedly and fade away, to reassemble elsewhere, and the day tensely dragged its weary length without grave incident. Gust said: "My Majority was ten and I want my job." But when the crowds left town on Saturday evening it did not seem that he was very likely to get it. But to the surprise of both sides the crowd came back Monday, as large or larger than ever. The Bailey boy, in the hall of the courthouse, sidled up to a little friend: "I came down to see them Swedes," he confided. "They are going to throw my pa out of the courthouse; but he's got ahead of them. He ain't coming down." Finally the excitement culminated and the crowd swayed to the counter in front of the clerk's office. Some one gave F. M. Howard a leg over, and of Harry Dodd he demanded the keys. The latter used the lately established telephone to tell his principal that the crowd were in the office demanding the keys, and Bailey whose heart was not in the contest and who was inspired by the lawyers and political friends said "give them up," and the incident was closed.

Silas Barton was deputy in the office of Frank Hammond, county treasurer, when he was elected Grand Recorder of the A. O. U. W. and from the popularity thus obtained he was able to obtain afterward the position of congressman from the Fifth district. Leading fusionists of an early day were Henry Smith, John Peterson, Carl Huenefeld, Fred Newberry, William Dodds, Mark Castle, S. E. Evans, L. C. Genoways, J. L. Evans, Jap Cunningham, A. W. Steele, G. W. Grosvenor, Peter Wind, A. P. Moberg, Wm. H. Fall, J. M. Day, Wm. L. Stark, George L. Burr, F. M. Howard, Mike Pressler, Fred Peterson, J. H. Edmondson, Fred Jeffers, Jonathan Foster.

Another interesting phase of Hamilton County's populist record is that even up as late as 1914 Hamilton County was probably one of the three last counties in Nebraska, or even the Nation, to forego all traces of the populist movement. For many years after the republican and democratic parties gained their old position back again, one or the other being dominant party and holding the State House prizes, the custom held on of nominating candidates upon the populist state ticket.

This was generally exercised by the circulation of a few petitions through the state asking that the name of the particular democrat "who affiliates with the Populist party" be placed on the primary ballot for the designated office. These petitions were usually circulated in Polk County at Osceola, Custer County at Broken Bow and Hamilton County at Aurora, each of those three points having a few faithful ex-populists who, while they were really affiliating with the democratic party, had never quite erased from their hearts the true devotion to populist doctrines, and it was not until in the elections of 1914 and 1916 that the populist party failed to muster votes enough to comply with the percentage fixed by state law, and disappeared from the ballot that this last remnant of devotion to its former "fusive" power was relegated from Nebraska politics.

## CHAPTER V

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAMILTON COUNTY

THE CHANGE OF YEARS—NEBRASKA IN 1895-1915—FIRST COUNTY FAIR AND HISTORY OF ASSOCIATION—MINUTES OF MEETING OF 1879—MODERN FARM ORGANIZATION—WHEN THE GRASSHOPPERS CAME—HARD TIMES IN NEBRASKA, BY GEN. DELEVAN BATES.

#### THE CHANGE THROUGH THE YEARS

One could spend page upon page in discoursing about the wonderful transformation brought about in Hamilton County in the years. There is extended here a short account written by the Editor of the Aurora Sun in 1920, dwelling shortly upon the corn crop of 1920, the greatest ever harvested in this locality, but which underwent the after-war slump in prices which brought about the depression of the winter of 1920-21. To this is appended a little suggestive piece on "Why Boys Leave The Farm," a simple commentary upon the fact hereinbefore reflected upon that the cities are gaining and the rural districts losing in proportionate population.

#### "THE GARDEN OF EDEN"

The editor of the Aurora Sun is enthusiastic, and with good reason, about the 1920 corn crop. Here is the way it looks to him as he tells the story in last week's Sun.

"The farmers of central Nebraska are justly and richly entitled to two things this year—a big corn crop and a good price for it. The past ten days have made the first a sure thing, and the worldwide call for corn should insure the good price. All of the world must have corn, and while some of the big corn producing states like Iowa and Illinois are compelled to reduce the estimate of their 1920 crop on account of unfavorable weather conditions, Nebraska has had just the opposite kind of weather and the estimate has been raised. It is very probable that central Nebraska will harvest the best crop of corn that ever hung its ears above this splendid soil.

"The first of the week the editor of the Sun and members of the household made an auto trip of 130 miles and on that trip the principal thing was the inspection of cornfields. Sunday was one of the hottest days of the late summer, the thermometer reaching the 96 mark during the day. The great cornfields under the heating rays and drying breeze waved and rustled and browned as if by magic, and the days that have followed since have carried nature's maturing process forward with uninterrupted certainty. The corn crop in this section is today an assured fact. It is now but a question of the size of the

yield, getting it husked and receiving an adequate price. Even the latest corn has been hurried along the past ten days until it is safe from the ordinary frost. Nothing but a hard freeze would work damage to the late corn, and a destructive freeze at this time of the year is a very uncommon thing.

“Leaving Aurora in the morning the auto party drove to Marquette, noting the myriad ears of corn hanging downward from the stalk on either side of the road, mile after mile in unbroken repetition. From Marquette through the Kronborg neighborhood, then to Hordville, east through old Bluff and on clear across Polk county and through southern Butler to Ulysses—everywhere the same—cornfields as far as the eye could reach and every hill burdened with its load of white or yellow ears bending low under their own weight and hardening beneath the processes of sun and wind. It was a trip never to be forgotten, because it was through God’s Country indeed, if the Creator ever selected any spot to be looked upon as his very own and very best. How many people, we wonder, who live amid these scenes and conditions realize that in no other part of the world can they be duplicated? The route described lies through and is a part of the garden spot of the world—a section of country that has no equal in the world, and we are led to wonder if we have not become so accustomed to it that we fail to know or understand the greatness of it all. Nine-tenths of the world’s people would be ecstatic with joy could they have a residence in such a land and they would herald it as the Garden of Eden, because it is tenfold richer and more productive than was the Garden of Eden of our Sunday school.

“The writer passed along roads over which we walked or drove broncos forty years ago. We passed the very fields from which we husked corn that many years ago and which later was hauled to market ten to fourteen miles and sold for a few cents per bushel—in fact for but little more than the charge for husking nowadays. We passed the spot where stood the first school we ever attended and just a little distance away we could see the field where we worked for fifty cents per day. In that same field this year the harvest hands received seven dollars per day. That is the change which forty years have wrought. Where stood the sod shanties of forty years ago now are the splendid modern homes with every convenience, and the cattle barns are much better now than the family domicile was before. The bronco is gone and the auto is at the door. The scrubby pig and forlorn calf have disappeared and the proud thoroughbred now feeds in the same yard. All is changed, and the frowning expanse of unproductive prairie which greeted the eye of the pioneer has in the half century changed to a smiling empire of garden, flower and wealth beyond the dream of the most visionary man or woman who ever prophesied the future of the world’s bread basket. Do we appreciate it?”

#### WHY BOYS LEAVE THE FARM

“Why did you leave the farm, my lad?  
Why did you bolt and leave your dad?  
Why did you beat it off to town  
And turn your poor old father down?”

Thinkers of platform, pulpit and press  
 Are wallowing in deep distress.  
 They seek to know the hidden cause  
 Why farmer boys desert their pas."

"Well, stranger, since you've been so frank,  
 I'll roll aside the hazy bank:  
 I left my dad, his farm, his plow,  
 Because my calf became his cow,  
 I left my dad to sow and reap  
 Because my lamb became his sheep.  
 I dropped the hoe and stuck the fork  
 Because my pig became his pork.  
 The garden truck that I made grow  
 Was his to sell, but mine to hoe."

"It's not the smoke in the atmosphere,  
 Nor the taste for life that brought me here.  
 Please tell the platform, pulpit, press.  
 No fear of toil nor love of dress  
 Is driving off the farmer lads;  
 It's just the methods of their dads."

Now dads had better change their ways,  
 They'll surely find it always pays  
 To give the boys a little share—  
 It really isn't more than fair.  
 They'll stay at home and be content  
 And Dad will say 'twas coin well spent.  
 For after all don't BOYS count more  
 Than all the MONEY one can store?

#### NEBRASKA: 1895 AND 1915

How times have changed in Nebraska. I recall a "country" Fourth of July celebration twenty years ago in a county. It was in many respects an assembly to excite sympathy. It was the year following the great "dry spell." Not a farmer on the grounds had harvested in 1894 enough wheat to feed his family, not enough corn to fatten a single hog. The hot winds of the preceding year had destroyed about everything the farmers possessed except their supply of hope. Almost pathetic were the attempts of the women folks to make a good appearance. Many of them wore garments which had been contributed to the drought sufferers by the collectors of cast-off clothing in the eastern states. Practically every farmer in the crowd had been compelled to accept either offerings from the hand of charity, or seed grain from the county or state. The crop prospects were good on the day of celebration, but the anniversary of the



hellish hot winds of the preceding July were nearing, and mingling with smile of hope on every face were traces of a fear which could not be dispelled—fear that again the hot winds would come to finish the blasting and the blighting of hope in the hearts of men, even as the former scorching winds had blasted everything in all the fields. Feeble were the efforts of the people on the public program to appear blithe and gay. Even the songs of the children were subdued and almost melancholy. Few of the teams which had drawn people to the celebration were treated to a feed at noon, because only here and there was a farmer who had any other feed than grass for his team. Last Saturday I attended another "country" Fourth of July celebration in Nebraska. Marvelous transformation. A thousand people from the farms assembled at the George Clarke home, near the Woodville railroad station, at the cornering of Nance, Boone and Platte counties. There was a smile on every face, and the cheer of the voices of birds escaped the lips of happy children. The women were garbed in garments which Dame Fashion decrees. The men wore clothes of comfort and of latest cutting. The horses were fat as seals, and the mirror-like bodies of the automobiles reflected the faces of girlhood and young womanhood as beautiful as the dream-face of a goddess of Greece. Only twenty years from the reign of pinching poverty and fear to the era of plenty and peace, and when a talented young official of the farmers' organization proclaimed the goodness of God and the glory of the Nebraska farm, I uttered a glad and reverent amen!—Edgar Howard in Columbus Telegram.

#### FIRST COUNTY FAIR.

##### HELD AT ORVILLE CITY FORTY-THREE YEARS AGO—HORSE RACING A FEATURE.

According to the best information available, the first step toward the organization of a fair association in Hamilton County was taken in the store of David Stone in the brand new "town" of Aurora in the fall of 1871. The plan thus inaugurated was perfected at Orville City, then the county seat and a promising village whose long abandoned site is now included within the boundaries of the county poor farm (July, 1872). Joseph F. Glover was elected president at that time, James Rollo vice-president, George F. Dixon secretary, E. J. Lewis assistant secretary and John Laurie treasurer. Others who were active in the enterprise were Norris Bray, C. O. Wescott and T. C. Klumb.

The first county fair was held at Orville on the 5th and 6th days of October, 1872. The court house was used as an exhibit building and the race track was a grassy road around the public square—three circuits of the square being considered one mile. The grandstand was the great outdoors, and there were no reserved seats. The courthouse was afterward moved to Aurora and turned into a dwelling. For many years it stood on the present site of the United Brethren church but when that building was erected in 1911 it was again moved to Third and G. streets, where it is now occupied by the Dan Gion family.

The first fair is described by T. C. Klumb and others who were present as being a regular old-fashioned picnic with long tables at which a big dinner was served. There was a large crowd, people coming in all sorts of conveyances,

on horseback and afoot from many miles around. The exhibits, while small in number, were splendid in quality for those pioneer days. "But the hogs," says Mr. Klumb, were kept at home, "for with bacon at 40 cents per pound they were too valuable to be subjected to the shrinkage from hauling over rough roads in lumber wagons."

In the trotting races a man from Aurora named Marion Pfrimmer rode a gray mare belonging to J. C. Rateliff, a homesteader east of Aurora, and James Rollo down on the Blue, had a horse hitched up to a rig consisting of the front wheels of a wagon with home-made shafts. Pfrimmer took first money on account of Rollo having to stop and repair his harness at the half distance. T. C. Klumb had two horses in this race and took second and third money.

There was a ladies' equestrian exhibit, and Miss Lizzie Henderson, from just over the York County line on the Blue, was declared the winner. She rode a little black mare belonging to T. C. Klumb. She stood beside the animal, leaped upon its back without saddle or blanket and rode a circle of about a half-mile as hard as it could go. Miss Belle Laurie, now Mrs. Robert Waddle, was the other contestant.

In the running race Bob Waddle took first money and Alex Laurie second.

The county fair was held regularly every fall in Orville, to the best recollection of early settlers, until after the county seat was located in Aurora. J. F. Glover was president, E. J. Lewis secretary, and Samuel Whitesides treasurer during the grass-hopper years of 1873-4-5-6, with a few other hardy souls are entitled to the credit of having laid the foundations upon which the present thriving agricultural society and county fair have been built.

There is some question about the date of the first fair held at Aurora. Robert Miller, the only survivor of the original colony which established the town, thinks it was in 1873. His recollection is that the school house near where the Catholic church now stands was used that year for exhibition purposes and that the race track was somewhere in the vicinity of the present high school building. At any rate, he is quite sure that Jim Glandy was nearly killed in a race when a horse fell on him and that there was an interval of several years between the first fair in Aurora and the second.

This corresponds with Charley Whitesides' claim to having printed the first premium list for a Hamilton county fair in 1876. The book consisted of constitution, by-laws and list of premiums and was printed on a Washington hand press by Mr. Whitesides with "Billy" Reber swinging the brayer (a hand roller with which the type was inked). The type pages were just the width of an ordinary newspaper column, and the book was printed on common "print" paper with brown wrapping paper for cover and was sewed by hand with needle and thread. Mr. Whitesides was at that time publishing the Hamilton County News in the little town of Hamilton, which also had entertained designs upon the county seat. The agreed price for the job was \$75.00, but after the fair was over the society found itself short of funds and Mr. Whitesides compromised on the basis of \$65.00 cash and a life membership. He got his money all right but the society was reorganized shortly afterwards and the membership was never issued. Several others who paid from \$10 to \$20 apiece for life memberships about that time claim to have received nothing in return.

RELIC OF OLD TIMES.  
DISFIGURED BUT LEGIBLE.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN 1879 TELL HOW PRESENT GROUNDS WERE ACQUIRED.

The earliest record of the present Hamilton County Agricultural Society is found in a secretary's book which went through the court house fire of 1893. The edges are badly charred and the margins of some pages are deeply burned, but the writing for the most part is fairly legible. At the first meeting recorded, March 1, 1879, the following officers were elected; President, J. H. Farris; vice-president, J. S. Miller; secretary, F. M. Timblin; treasurer, A. V. B. Peck; marshal, James Fodge; directors, A. D. Scott, John T. Price, Jesse Evans, Jonathan Foster, T. W. Manchester, J. H. Sauls, Charles Pela—(last part of name burned away). The treasurer's report at that time showed a balance on hand of \$175. The amount brought forward from preceding year was \$158, received from county fair \$92, account advertisers, etc., \$49, county warrant \$128; paid out for premiums \$113, general expenses \$135.

When this meeting was held J. H. Bell was president and H. G. Cass secretary. Steps were then taken toward securing the present grounds for a permanent home of the fair, the secretary being instructed to communicate with D. Stone in regard to purchasing 40 acres in section 9, township 10, range 6. At a meeting held a few days later, March 22, 1879, the following record was made: "Proposition of D. Stone in regard to 40 acres of land in 9-10-5 read (for proposition see letter on file in secretary's office). Mr. J. S. Miller moved that the proposition to buy partly on time be accepted. During the discussion of the motion, Mr. D. Bates came forward and, on behalf of the town of Aurora, offered the society 20 acres west of the cemetery free of charge, but the society not deeming the land suitable for a fair ground, sustained the motion of Mr. Miller and the proposition of Mr. Stone was accepted. Upon motion, the secretary was instructed to correspond with Mr. Stone and state that the society will pay him \$100 down and \$100 annually at 10 per cent per annum in one and two years.

"J. S. Miller moved that the proposition of Mr. Huff to make a race track free of charge to the society be accepted, Mr. Huff to have exclusive control of the track for one year except during fair time, at which time the society will have exclusive control. Motion prevailed.

"Secretary authorized to prepare premium list and report first Saturday in May. Compensation \$10."

At the May meeting the premium list as prepared by secretary was adopted with an amendment providing for a premium on untrained trotting horses, the secretary was paid \$10 for his labor on same, superintendents of the various departments were appointed and the time of holding the fair was fixed for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 18th, 19th and 20th. An order was drawn at the same time for \$100 in favor of Mr. Stone, being first payment on the grounds.

Other meetings were held during the summer at which various details were arranged for the fair, and on September 13th the Baptist Society was granted permission to put a refreshment stand on the ground. On motion of Jonathan Foster, it was ordered "that church societies with refreshment booths or stands

be admitted to the fair grounds free; others with refreshments shall pay \$5 for the privilege during the fair; permits for the sale of melons, \$1 per day." Thomas Worthington, John E. Soward,—Downey and Mahlon Worthington were appointed gate-keepers at compensation of \$1.50 per day. Charles McKibben subsequently was named to take the place of Thomas Worthington.

No business was transacted at the annual meeting held on the fair grounds September 20th, pursuant to law, and although several attempts were made no quorum was secured until March 6, 1880, when the treasurer's report showed \$542 received, and the same amount expended.

At a meeting held April 8, 1880, some objection was raised by A. Johnson on account of the premium on pure bred Shorthorns not being high enough, indicating that even then fancy stock was receiving some attention. The clergy's traditional fondness for chickens was recognized by naming Rev. A. M. Totman as superintendent of the poultry department and special provision was made to admit the common grades of fowls to enter. A four-day fair was planned and a decision was reached to compete in the county exhibit at the state fair.

At a called meeting in July, 1883, "a talk was had about the propriety of putting a house on the grounds for some one to take care of the property, and it was the unanimous conviction that it should be done." October 4, 1884, T. Widaman, M. French & H. Cole were appointed to draw plans of buildings and to estimate cost. One week later a decision was reached to build a house 16 x 24 and G. H. Spalding, D. L. Toof and Frank Stevens were chosen as the building committee.

During the early days of the fair the job of printing the premium list was awarded to the lowest bidder and the society solicited the advertising contained therein. In 1887 the present plan of permitting the printer to assume the entire responsibility for what advertising he could secure was adopted.

October 6, 1887, it was voted to replace the old board fence with wire and to erect permanent stalls and cattle sheds. T. A. McKay, J. H. Moore, D. L. Toof and D. A. Scovill were the committee on location, plans etc. There is an unexplained interval from October 15, 1887, to October 6, 1888, when, according to the secretary's records, no meetings were held.

The following action was taken August 7, 1889: "Motion prevailed that society build an amphitheatre as per plans on file, the dimensions being 64 feet in length and 28 feet in width, height 20 feet, to contain 12 rows of seats and having a seating capacity of about 500 people."

Considerable indebtedness having accumulated against the society, a plan was formulated February 9, 1892, to ask the county commissioners to appropriate \$1,000 for its relief. On the following day E. J. Hainer appeared before the county board and "showed the amount of money actually paid by the society for buildings and other improvements upon the society's grounds, the value of the real estate and improvements at the present time, the actual indebtedness of the society at the present time; he also offered the commissioners that if they would appropriate \$1,000 the same would not be paid out until the society would cause the difference to be raised and paid first, at which time the \$1,000 was to be paid by the county. This proposition was accepted and it was so ordered by the commissioners."

The following gentlemen have served as officers of the Hamilton County Agri-

cultural Society according to existing records: 1878, J. H. Bell president, H. G. Cass secretary; 1879, J. H. Farris president, F. M. Timblin secretary; 1880, J. H. Farris president, W. D. Pemberton secretary; 1881 J. H. Farris president, J. N. Cassell secretary; 1882-3 W. A. Johnson president, E. S. Phelps secretary; 1884-5, George Wildish president, Harvey Cole secretary; 1886 T. A. McKay president, Harvey Cole secretary; 1887 T. A. McKay president, D. A. Seoville secretary; 1888 J. H. Farris president, D. A. Seoville secretary; 1889 T. A. McKay president, R. H. Peard secretary; 1890 T. A. McKay president, D. A. Seoville secretary; 1891-2, T. A. McKay president, W. W. Shenberger secretary; 1893-4-5-6-7-8 T. A. McKay president, L. W. Shuman secretary; 1899-1900 T. A. McKay president, J. A. Isaman secretary; 1901, T. A. McKay president, Delevan Bates secretary; 1902, T. A. McKay president, D. A. Seoville secretary; 1903, F. W. Hammond president, D. L. Machamer secretary; 1904, J. A. Isaman president, D. L. Machamer secretary; 1905-6-7, R. L. Mabon president, D. L. Machamer secretary; 1908-9-10-11-12-13-14, R. L. Mabon president, S. B. Otto secretary; 1915, E. J. Eggert president, S. B. Otto secretary.

For many years T. A. McKay was very active in the affairs of the society and he was ably succeeded by R. L. Mabon, both of whom established records of long tenure in the residency. They were ably assisted by such men as D. L. Toof, T. W. and A. J. Cavett, O. F. Arnold, J. B. Cain, F. C. Putnam, T. W. Williams and F. M. Howard. W. H. Streeter held the office of treasurer for a long time and was a pillar of strength to the organization, financially and otherwise, during its years of stress. The records indicate that they were always ready to advance money when called upon and the older members of the society give him credit for having saved its life on more than one occasion.

E. J. Eggert was promoted from the vice-presidency upon the death of Mr. Mabon and S. B. Otto proved himself an unusually capable secretary. In 1921 E. J. Eggert is President. L. C. Morris has been secretary for the past few years.

#### MODERN FARM ORGANIZATIONS.

Just as the Farmers Alliance served its useful purpose in the Nineties in getting the farmers together, and so thoroughly aroused that in their united efforts they brought about a cleaning of methods in the old-line political parties and their state government, so in the period between 1917 and 1921, the growth of Farmers' Unions, the Nonpartisan League and various other farmers organizations has brought about a great change. The Farmers Unions have acquired cooperative elevators and stores throughout the state and no less in Hamilton county. The permanent effect of the Nonpartisan League with its political program cannot yet be foretold, for history must be written in the past, and not with speculative analysis of the present, or wild guesses upon the future. But it can be truly said that one institution which merits a somewhat careful treatment of its first year of life, is the Farm Bureau. In 1921, Hamilton County's Farm Bureau stands as one of the first three in the state to secure a moving picture portable outfit to move from place to place and demonstrate its work in that manner. The following roster of the officials who bore the brunt of the burden in launching this enterprise, and its first annual report are recorded.

## WHAT IS THE FARM BUREAU?

The Farm Bureau is an institution devoted entirely to farm problems. It is composed of and managed by farmers. Membership in the Farm Bureau is open to any farmer who wishes to enroll and is willing to take an active part in Farm Bureau affairs. There are no membership dues.

At the annual meeting of the Bureau, the members elect from their number the necessary officers and an Executive Board. This Board hires the agent and directs his work.

The County Agent is a man who is hired to give his full time to looking after the interests of the Farm Bureau. He has about the same relation to the farmers of the county as the Secretary of a Commercial club has to the business men. His work is to help the farmers in solving their problems, bringing to them the best experience of other farmers and also the results of investigations and experiments carried on by the government.

The Farm Bureau has the combined support of the Federal Government, the State and the County. It is recognized as an effective means of improving the agriculture of our county. It has the endorsement of hundreds of counties that have tried it out. There are several thousand county agents in the United States representing more than 80% of the agricultural counties and 97% of the agriculture.

The success of Farm Bureau work in any county depends upon two things: first, the ability and faithfulness of the agent, and second, the support given to the work by the farmers of the county. Without this support the most capable agent will fail.

## OFFICERS AND CO-OPERATORS

## OF

## HAMILTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU—1918

EDWIN HUENEFELD, PRESIDENT

L. B. Henriksen, Vice-President	A. E. Axen, Director
I. N. Skinner, Secretary-Treasurer	A. N. England, Director
Wm. Lindahl, Director	L. A. Wickland, County Agent,
Adam George, Director	Aurora

## PRECINCT VICE-PRESIDENTS

Farmers Valley—W. F. Enderle	Grant—Clarence Kemper
Orville—Emory Riecker	Monroe—Anton Dahl
Union—I. N. Skinner	Phillips—B. B. Heuermann
Seoville—C. A. Starr	South Platte—V. Johnson
Deepwell—A. J. Peterson	Otis—Carl Jensen
Hamilton—S. W. Weikel	Bluff—A. V. Burke
Aurora—F. C. Rundle	Beaver—Art Snyder
Valley—P. H. Gibson	

## CO-OPERATORS

School Dist.	No. 3, I. J. Doell
No. 1, Perry Reed	No. 4, J. J. Springer
No. 2, Phillip Ochsner	No. 5, Juno. Finegan

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| No. 6, Ralph Wright     | No. 54, Chas. Cogil           |
| No. 7, Jno. Werth       | No. 55, C. S. Gjerloff        |
| No. 8, O. C. Olsen      | No. 56, W. E. Allen           |
| No. 10, Albert Furr     | No. 57, L. A. Megrue          |
| No. 11, Sam Chapman     | No. 58, Jno. Jacobsen         |
| No. 12, Thos. Salmon    | No. 59, A. C. Anderson        |
| No. 13, Ross Toof       | No. 60, Lars Larson           |
| No. 14, J. Frank Byers  | No. 61, L. P. Jones           |
| No. 15, A. A. Enderle   | No. 62, R. Hammond            |
| No. 16, Geo. Dixon      | No. 63, Rex Goethe            |
| No. 17, A. Anderson     | No. 64, Chris Iieber          |
| No. 18, To be supplied  | No. 65, A. V. Burke           |
| No. 19, Kay Gjerloff    | No. 66, Carl Huenefeld        |
| No. 20, Jno. Sorensen   | No. 68, Orvis Cox             |
| No. 21, G. F. Johnson   | No. 69, J. W. Saylor          |
| No. 23, H. C. Humphrey  | No. 70, E. Newhouser          |
| No. 24, J. B. Hagarity  | No. 71, Geo. Hilliard         |
| No. 25, F. Christiansen | No. 72, O. F. McDannel        |
| No. 26, R. P. Fiss      | No. 73, Adam George           |
| No. 27, Mark Wilson     | No. 74, Simon Larson          |
| No. 28, E. R. Coffey    | No. 75, Will Talbert          |
| No. 29, Merle Sims      | No. 76, Thomas Siever         |
| No. 30, Clark Wilson    | No. 77, W. H. Beins           |
| No. 31, W. E. Thompson  | No. 78, D. M. Walker          |
| No. 32, C. F. Gilmore   | No. 79, Harry Ling            |
| No. 33, Fred Splinter   | No. 80, Frank Willkins        |
| No. 34, L. C. Altrogge  | No. 81, H. J. Hoegh           |
| No. 35, Geo. Hawthorn   | No. 82, Frank Weedin          |
| No. 36, L. H. Locke     | No. 83, E. O. Streeter        |
| No. 37, Robert Young    | No. 85, Ralph Evans           |
| No. 38, Jno. J. George  | No. 86, B. Heurermann         |
| No. 39, C. P. Moore     | No. 87, D. H. Stalmecker      |
| No. 40, Wm. Kamtz       | No. 88, Monte Levee           |
| No. 41, Bert Davis      | No. 89, N. C. Nelson          |
| No. 42, W. Brock        | No. 90, John. Bengtson        |
| No. 43, Casper Arnold   | No. 91, L. A. Pohl            |
| No. 44, F. L. Bald      | No. 92, Robt Killion          |
| No. 45, Emil Anderson   | No. 93, Paul Sagehorn         |
| No. 46, Fred Herbig     | No. 94, Earl Castle           |
| No. 47, Geo. Land       | No. 95, E. E. Lansden         |
| No. 48, Ed Larsen       | No. 96, A. Grunkemeir         |
| No. 49, C. Simonsen     | No. 97, A. McDannel           |
| No. 50, To be supplied  | No. 98, Lynn Hanger           |
| No. 51, P. H. Gibson    | No. 99, Frank Rundle          |
| No. 52, W. M. Shertz    | No. 100, Nels P. Christiansen |
| No. 53, E. F. Otto      |                               |

OFFICERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY UNION OF THE FARMERS EDUCATIONAL AND CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF NEBRASKA.

President—Mark Wilson, Aurora

Secretary-Treasurer—P. E. Snarr, Giltner

Vice-President — Guy Huffman, Giltner

Directors—Jonas Saylor, I. N. Skinner and O. L. Huenefeld.

## LOCAL UNIONS AND THEIR SECRETARIES

Hart—V. W. Hernan, Giltner  
 West Boag—Ed Humphrey, Giltner  
 Salem—Horace Potts, Trumbull  
 Mt. Hope—Walter Larmore, Giltner  
 Star—O. A. Cox, Giltner  
 Grove—Guy Huffman, Giltner  
 Verona—E. Wilson, Stockham  
 Wright—E. C. Riecher, Stockham  
 Prairie Center—Fred Aldrup,  
 Aurora  
 Beaver—M. L. Hutsell, Hampton  
 Hamilton Center—E. G. Schrock,  
 Giltner  
 Aurora—Frank Anderson, Aurora  
 Grant Center—Ralph Hammond  
 Aurora

Platte—Gordon Graham, Marquette  
 Shady Nook—W. A. Miller, Aurora  
 West Beaver—Otto Wright, Aurora  
 Furays Grove—Mrs. Bernice M. Pier-  
 son, Aurora  
 Maple Grove—Fred Gingrich, Aurora  
 Hordville—C. G. Heuring, Hordville  
 St. Joe—J. M. Wagner, Phillips  
 Farmers Valley—P. O. Regier, Hen-  
 derson  
 Hillcrest—I. J. Doell, Hampton  
 Pleasant Hill—Peter A. Nissen,  
 Hampton  
 Union—H. M. Eskildsen, Hampton  
 Frank Splitterger, Hampton

The first annual meeting of the Hamilton County Farm Bureau was held in the district court room December 8, 1918 with about fifty progressive farmers in attendance. The principal features of the program were the report of the county agent, L. A. Wickland, and a splendid address by C. E. Gunnels, director of the extension service of the state university. Mr. Gunnels was for two years the farm demonstrator of Seward county, being one of the first in the field. He made such a splendid record there that he was chosen to take charge of the work for the whole state, and has since been called still higher. He will go to Washington about the first of the year to help develop the farm bureau idea along national lines. His address was full of splendid suggestions that will doubtless prove of practical benefit to all who heard it.

At the close of the meeting the following officers were elected for 1919: President, Edwin Huenefeld; secretary-treasurer, I. N. Skinner; board of directors, William Lindhal, L. B. Henrickson, Adam George, A. N. England, Axel Axen; precinct vice-presidents; W. F. Enderle, Farmers Valley; P. H. Gibson, Valley; F. C. Rundle, Aurora; Anton Dahl, Monroe; A. V. Burke, Bluff; S. W. Weikel, Hamilton; Clarence Kemper, Grant; A. J. Peterson, Deepwell; Arthur Snyder, Beaver; Carl Jensen, Otis; Victor Johnson, South Platte; Emory Reicker, Orville; I. N. Skinner, Union; B. H. Heurman, Phillips, Seoville was the only precinct unrepresented.

## "WHEN THE GRASSHOPPERS CAME."

BY MRS. D. T. MOORE OF YORK COUNTY

One afternoon during the harvest season of 1874, our family consisting of four members and two visitors, making six altogether, went from our home, in the valley of Lincoln Creek, to the home of Mr. Charles Keckley on the hill, where we were invited to partake of the hospitality of Mr. Keckley and his sister, the late Mrs. Bonar. We were feeling in just the right spirit for a good social time and a rest, as our harvest was over and we were ready to help our neighbors even to the extent of taking supper with them. While still lingering at the table, we noticed that it was growing darker in the west than the time of day



would warrant. Fearful of a sudden storm which often took us unawares, the men went to investigate, nothing indicated a storm, except the darkening of the western sky and an ominous roaring which was alarming. The men climbed to the roof of the house—did I say it was a sod house?—to investigate farther. And there they came, by the millions, the undesirable newcomers. We learned a day later that devastation lay behind them. The harvest was especially good that year but harvesters were few in number and even though a few had utilized Sunday to save their crops, many fields were still uncut. These the grasshoppers laid waste, then ate the growing corn and garden leaving nothing but tomatoes and tobacco behind them. But here they came, and as we saw them settle upon our neighbors cornfields and gardens, our heart sank within us, for we knew our fate was the same. As we proceeded on our way home, much sadder than when we left a few hours before, we saw every stem of grass, every garden plant—our splendid garden which had been our pride and source of supply all summer—and the cornfields and trees all covered black with the army of grasshoppers, where they had settled for the night and for so long as there was anything for them to eat. It was little use to try to save anything but a few trees in the front yard to which much care had been given and which if saved would be permanent. These were chosen for the experiment, and no sooner were they well settled than a bucketful of cold well water, from the hands of the men of the house would disturb the repose of that particular bunch, and by persistent effort a few of our little shade trees were saved to grow another year. It was almost more than we could believe possible, where everything had been growing and green was the prevailing hue, in a few hours to see here black stems and corn stalks, and those who lost their ripened grain were worse off.

We do not like to dwell upon hardships but the grasshopper year was one of those which tried men's souls and the courage of many deserted them, and rather than see those dependent upon them suffer they gave up and went back to their old homes. Those who remained and "stayed by the stuff" were well rewarded. The following winter was a hard one for man and stock, no vegetables of any kind were saved and for a farmer's wife to cook a meal without potatoes was almost impossible, but we did it the grasshopper year. One substitute was whole wheat mush fried brown and eaten with milk. The wheat was taken to the mill and ground coarsely as feed for the stock, horses, cows and hogs; all seemed to thrive upon it, and I know we never tasted more tender or sweeter meat than our hogs produced the "Grasshopper Year." But to go back to our own rations, from this coarsely ground wheat we sifted the finer portions and used it as a variation from the white flour. We did not even have cornmeal as I remember; there were "Yankee" or Navy beans as plentiful then as they are now. But the potatoes were the most missed vegetable. I remember when we went to take Sunday dinner with Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Read and I saw the dish of mashed potatoes placed upon the table I could scarcely wait, and I have no recollection of the other dishes which were accompaniments to and no doubt all as good in their way as were the potatoes. I do not know where they got their potatoes either.

We lived through the winter and when spring came were ready to begin over. Only there was no seed of any kind at hand, and this was the time and

place to ask and take assistance from any who were able and willing to give it, and there are those who no doubt could tell the story better than I.

We were in fear of a return of the grasshoppers as of the horde of young ones which might hatch out, but every precaution was taken and crops were raised again, and we were glad we were citizens of Nebraska.

#### HARD TIMES IN NEBRASKA

OLD LETTER WRITTEN BY GENERAL BATES DESCRIBES HOT WIND OF JULY 26, 1894

During the '90s Bates was a frequent contributor to the Otsego (N. Y.) Republican, whose editor was an old army comrade. Naturally, most of his communications dealt with the war movements of the one hundred and twenty-first New York volunteers, which regiment was organized in the vicinity of Otsego, but occasional references were made to Nebraska politics, crops and local affairs of more or less importance. From an old scrap book is taken the following description of the famous hot wind of 1894 and its probable consequences, written under the date of August 15th of that year; also a reference to the court house foundation which may be of interest to the men who built the new postoffice:

"Nebraska is seeing hard times this summer. Corn is king in this state, and until July 26th the prospect for a bountiful crop was never better, but about 10 o'clock a. m. on that day there came from the south a breeze that filled every heart with terror. It was heated as though it had come from the burning sands of Sahara, and long before night the corn leaves had become parched so that there were no hopes for the making of the full ear. Old corn, of which there were thousands of bushels in the state, went right up to 50 and then to 60 cents per bushel. These are too high figures for feeding purposes, and so hogs and cattle must go with the corn. All hogs fit for slaughter have been shipped to the cities for killing, and store hogs are being shipped to localities where corn is more plentiful. Along the Mississippi river there is perhaps half crop, and farmers will not feel the reverse as they do in the central and western portions of the state.

"Of course, you will ask, 'What will the farmers do?' There is only one way to meet the calamity and that is to drop every luxury, cut off all expenses, get extensions on all indebtedness for another year, make preparations for getting those who are entirely destitute in convenient centers and there establish soup houses or other economical methods for furnishing subsistence. And above all else, punch up congress on the irrigation experiments. Give us some practical methods whereby the effects of these drying winds and long continued droughts can be counteracted.

"This condition of affairs will give some people a good lesson. It will teach them to be a little more economical and have a little more thought for the future. The scriptural injunction of 'Take, therefore, no thought of the morrow,' won't work in Nebraska. Every farmer must learn to keep one crib of corn ahead until after the new crop is assured each year. There are just a few of that kind in our midst, and they are happy.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Although we are having some experiences not especially pleasing, Aurora

has some things to be thankful for. The foundation is being laid in the court house square for a \$60,000 court house. A person from the east would be surprised to see the beginning. Wide trenches are dug only two feet deep where the walls are to be laid. These trenches are filled with rubble stone filled with cement and well tamped, and on this the footing stones are placed and then the structure goes up of brick faced with stone. The frost never affects the ground; the breaking up of the surface when spring opens is never seen in Nebraska. I suppose this is the reason why foundations can be laid so near the surface with safety to the building."

#### FARMERS' ELEVATORS IN HAMILTON COUNTY

THE AURORA REPUBLICAN ON AUGUST 5, 1913, RECITED THE FOLLOWING HISTORY OF THIS MOVEMENT

The farmers' elevator movement has reached its climax in Hamilton county. Every one of the eight stations in the county now has a successful, prosperous company, the latest edition being the Farmers' Elevator Company of Giltner, which began business July 26th of the present year. The total number of companies in the county is seven and eight elevators are operated, the Aurora company having an elevator at Murphy also. The membership in these seven companies exceeds 1,000 farmers, which is about one-half of the number in the county.

The present successful farmers' elevator movement had its beginning in the county about 1905. Prior to that time there had been farmers' companies at different points in the county, but they were poorly organized and the improper management that followed soon resulted in failure. The later movement has profited by the mistakes of the pioneer movement and placed itself on the fixed institutions of the county.

A general demand for better grain markets, which was the result of the excessive margins that were taken by grain dealers in this as well as in other counties, was the impelling force in the organization of the present companies. An investigation of past market conditions and a comparison with present market conditions shows that a much narrower margin of profit is now being taken in this county in the grain business than was taken ten years ago. The actual result of the establishment of these companies and their successful operation is the proof that they have fulfilled their mission.

On January 18, 1904, wheat was bought in Aurora for 53 cents. At the same time it sold in Kansas City for 80 to 82 cents, a margin of 27 to 29 cents. On January 19th of the same year the Aurora price was 54 cents, the Kansas City price 83 cents and the Omaha price 75 to 77 cents, a margin of 29 cents under the Kansas City price and 21 to 23 cents under the Omaha price. Other comparisons in the same year show margins of from 22 to 30 cents. At that time the cost of handling a bushel of wheat to Kansas City was about 11 cents and to Omaha about 10 cents, leaving the Aurora grain dealer a net margin for himself of from 15 to 20 cents under Kansas City and 12 to 15 cents under Omaha, after he had deducted freight and commission charges.

Late in 1906 the first real farmers' elevator company was incorporated in

the county. Agitation increased and the grain market was visibly affected in a general way even before any farmers' companies began to buy grain. On June 13, 1907, Aurora grain dealers paid 72 cents for wheat. The Kansas City market then was 86 and the Omaha market 92 cents, leaving margins of 14 and 20 cents, respectively, or a net of 3 and 10 cents, respectively, against the old net margins of from 12 to 20 cents. Other comparisons for June, July, August, September and October of the same year show the continued and successful operation of one company in the county caused the margin of the grain dealer automatically to shrink until it became as low as 11 cents under the Kansas City market and 12 cents under the Omaha market. This statement does not show the true condition, however, because the relation of the markets at Kansas City and at Omaha were such that when the margin was smaller at Kansas City it was larger at Omaha, and when it was smaller at Omaha it was larger at Kansas City, so that between the two markets there was no time during the year 1907 when the Aurora grain dealer did not have a net margin of at least 4 cents a bushel. The net margin for the year varied from 4 to 11 cents, the average being above 7 cents. On April 16, 1908, shortly after the incorporation of the Aurora company, but before its elevator was yet built, the Aurora market price for wheat was 80 cents, the Kansas City price 91 cents and the Omaha price 93 cents, which even then left a net margin of more than 4½ cents under the Omaha market, for at this time there was a reduction in freight rate to Omaha which was usually resulting in an addition to the profit of the grain dealer of 15 per cent of the old freight rate. Thus, in this case, as in others, did "coming events cast their shadows before," and the approach of the farmers' elevator reduced the margin of the grain dealer from 20 cents to 4 cents, a saving to the community of 16 cents.

The Aurora market has here been cited only for illustration because it was at that time the largest market in the county and should have been the best. During those years conditions were very similar at other towns in the county, with occasional and irregular variation, sometimes better, sometimes worse. Now, with the market in the control of the farmers' elevator companies, the maximum net margin on which wheat is bought is 3 cents a bushel, which means over the old prices a net profit to the farmer of from 1 cent to 17 cents a bushel in addition to the profit of his company which he also shares.

This margin averages more than 10 cents a bushel less than the old margin, which means that the farmer now gets more than 10 cents a bushel more for his wheat than he did ten years ago. Such a saving means much to our county, for our 2,000 farmers raise an average annual crop of 2,000,000 bushels of wheat alone, of which they market more than 80 per cent. A comparison of the market on other grain will show results like the above showing made in the wheat market. The sum total of the result is an annual saving to Hamilton county of more than a quarter of a million dollars, or about \$25 a year for every man, woman and child in the county. This statement of the actual result is very conservative, being much less than the actual figures show.

Five of our companies are organized and operated on the real co-operative plan. The plan provides for a limited dividend on the capital stock, which amounts to the same thing as interest on the money invested, because the value of the stock is kept at par. The remainder of the surplus, if there be any, is paid

to shareholders in proportion to the amount of business each has transacted with his company. Since the principal volume of the business is in grain, the surplus is usually divided according to the amount of grain bought or sold and the payment is commonly known as a grain dividend. The real working of the plan can best be shown by giving a few of the actual results it has produced. They are taken from the records for last year. The payments were 8 per cent on investment and 2 cents per bushel on the grain. One member with \$25 invested marketed 1,300 bushels of grain, receiving \$2 interest on his investment and \$26.15 on his grain, a total of \$28.15. Another with the same investment marketed 2,500 bushels of grain, receiving \$2 interest on his investment and \$50.90 on his grain, a total of \$52.90. Another with \$200 invested marketed more than 6,000 bushels of grain, receiving \$16 interest on his investment and \$127 on his grain, a total of \$143. Still another with an investment of \$100 marketed more than 1,900 bushels of grain, receiving \$8 interest on his investment and \$38.09 on his grain, a total of \$46.09. Those members who transacted no business with the company received only 8 per cent interest on their investments.

This co-operative plan, which is not a new plan, is growing in popularity with all classes. The investor is satisfied with it because 8 per cent is a liberal return on the investment and because, when the company is operating with the double idea of paying interest on the investment and a return on the business in addition, the interest on the investment is assured. The patron is satisfied because, if he does not get the full market value of his grain when he sells it, the remainder will be paid to him at the end of the year. The patronage dividend is now being extended to other commodities than grain.

These companies were incorporated as follows, each company engaging in business some time after its incorporation: Hordville, November 12, 1906; Aurora, March 30, 1908; Marquette, June 19, 1909; Stockham, March 22, 1910; Phillips, April 11, 1910; Hampton, November 4, 1910; Giltner, March 23, 1915. In the spring of 1910 the Aurora Elevator Company sold additional stock and built the elevator at Murphy, and in 1914 a modern flouring mill was erected at Aurora by the same company, all of which are operated from the Aurora office. Each of these companies has been very fortunate in securing honest, capable men for officers and managers. All are eminently successful and have been in charge practically from organization. The entire list, from the oldest at Hordville to the youngest at Giltner, are solid business institutions.

Hamilton is the only county in Nebraska, or probably in any other state, that has a farmers' elevator at every railroad station. Their growth has been steady and substantial and is fairly representative of the growth within the state, which has shown an increase in number from less than 100 in 1904 to 283 at the present time, more than 50 having been added within the past year. These Hamilton county companies collectively form an institution to which every citizen, and especially every farmer, may point with pride, for it saves the farmer more than 10 cents a bushel on his grain and retains in the county more than a quarter of a million dollars every year that would otherwise go outside the county. The institution is one of the most valuable assets of the county, one which it can least afford to lose, and one which will always yield increasing profits for increasing patronage.

## THE HAMILTON COUNTY COMPANIES AS EXISTING IN 1915 WERE:

Hordville—Farmers' Grain & Live Stock Association, H. G. Carpenter, manager; incorporated Nov. 12, 1906.

Aurora—Aurora Elevator Company, H. E. Toof, manager; incorporated March 30, 1908.

Marquette—Marquette Elevator Company, H. C. Orbin, manager; incorporated June 19, 1909.

Stockham—Farmers' Elevator Company, S. H. Riker, manager; incorporated March 22, 1910.

Phillips—Phillips Grain Company, C. E. Coffey, manager; incorporated April 11, 1910.

Hampton—Hampton Elevator Company, Harry Larson, manager; incorporated November 4, 1910.

Giltner—Farmers' Elevator Company, Frank Bowser, manager; incorporated March 23, 1915.

## THE HAMPTON ELEVATOR COMPANY

To the activity of one man is largely due the fact that Hamilton is the most thoroughly organized county in one of the strongest farmers' elevator states in the union. The name of that man is J. W. Shorthill, secretary of the Nebraska Farmers' Co-operative Grain and Live Stock State Association, who makes his home at Hampton. The Hampton Elevator Company was fortunate in having him for its first manager, and it is no less fortunate in his successor, Harry Larsen, son of Hans Larsen, a Hampton boy who grew up in a wheat field and who is making a splendid reputation in the marketing end of the business.

The company was organized in the fall of 1910 with L. Eskildsen president, John Peterson vice president, Paul Holm secretary, E. J. George treasurer and Julius Schall director. With the exception of Mr. George, who is succeeded by August Zierott as treasurer, and Julius Schall, whose place on the board is now filled by Abe Troester, the same officers are still in charge. Mr. Shorthill had resigned as manager of the Aurora elevator the preceding year and gone to Crete. An offer was made him by the new company to return to Hamilton county, which he promptly accepted. He continued in charge until February, 1913, when increasing work connected with the state organization demanded his full time. Mr. Larsen was thereupon elected manager with John Eskildsen as assistant. The business has grown steadily from the first, as the record of grain handled shows:

	Wheat	Corn	Oats
1911 .....	42,348	11,650	None
1913 .....	113,000	7,250	4,510
1914 .....	215,240	40,000	12,000

The company has gradually extended the scope of its operations until it now handles, in addition to grain, live stock, flour, feed, coal, and binding twine, and conducts an extensive feed grinding business. It is capitalized at \$9,675, with 196 farmer stockholders. The annual statement for 1914 showed a plant worth

\$12,000, personal accounts outstanding of \$7,151.58, about \$5,000 cash on hand and in bank and other assets aggregating \$26,981.18. Included in the liabilities were: Unpaid dividends to January 1, 1914, \$166.28; grain dividends for 1914, \$3,116.11; twine dividend, (?); grain dividends for 1914, \$3,116.11; twine dividend, \$80; stock dividend, \$760; undivided profits, \$534.94.

#### THE PHILLIPS GRAIN COMPANY

Although the meanderings of the Platte river are such as to restrict the territory which would otherwise be tributary to Phillips, the farmers' elevator at that point compares most favorably with similar institutions located at more advantageous points. The company was organized in the spring of 1910 and when the new crop came on the market in July of that year it was ready for business with 92 stockholders and the following officers: L. E. Otto, president; A. J. Cavett, vice-president; August Bartz, secretary; John Cooper, treasurer. These gentlemen with T. E. Nordgren constituted the first board of directors.

The T. B. Hord elevator was bought and Mr. Hord's manager, E. C. Purty, was retained by the new organization. Mr. Purdy remained for a year and a half and then retired to his farm near Phillips, being succeeded by C. E. Coffey, the present manager. Mr. Coffey came to Phillips from Cherokee, Okla., where he had spent seven years with a farmers' elevator. This, together with natural ability, industry and a pleasing personality, has contributed much to the success of the enterprise. The present officers are (1915): John Cooper, president; Henry England, vice-president; August Bartz, Jr., secretary; W. T. Dearing, treasurer. L. E. Ott is now the fifth man on the board of directors. The membership has remained almost stationary, being now 94 as compared to 92 at the beginning.

The business has steadily increased from the beginning, and the elevator now handles approximately 2,000,000 bushels of grain per year. Under the first year of Mr. Coffey's management the company paid an 8 per cent dividend on stock, and each succeeding year 16 per cent. It has never adopted the grain dividend principle and its surplus fund now amounts to \$4,902. According to the last annual statement, prepared at the close of business December 31, 1914, it had assets aggregating \$13,144.77. Included in these were the elevator plant at \$5,500, lumber yard note at \$2,000 and a bank balance of \$2,583. The liabilities consisted principally of \$7,125 capital stock and \$4,902 undivided profits (surplus).

The Phillips Grain Company was responsible for the organization of the Farmers Lumber Company at Phillips July 10, 1914, with an authorized capital of \$25,000. The S. A. Foster Company lumber yard at Phillips was purchased and has just closed a very successful first year under the management of L. A. Langhlin, who succeeded A. S. Gilbert last April. While the lumber yard and elevator are operated separately, the stockholders in both corporations are practically the same. Farmers in the vicinity of Phillips have the distinction of being the first in Hamilton county to engage in the lumber business along lines similar to those which have proven so successful in the marketing of grain, and present indications are that they have no reason to regret the experiment.

## FARMERS ELEVATOR CO., STOCKHAM

The winter of 1909-10 was a period of agitation among the farmers of Orville and Farmers Valley precincts, culminating in the organization of an independent elevator February 19, 1910. Articles of incorporation were adopted March 22nd of the same year, and when the company was ready to begin operations August 1st it had 132 stockholders and paid up capital of \$7,075. S. H. Riker was placed in charge as manager and has held that position continuously since.

The first officers of the new organization, who with J. E. Cameron constituted the board of directors, were: President, J. K. Hartnell; vice-president, George Nuss; secretary, M. H. Kirk; treasurer, James Beat, Sr. In the beginning the new company confined its operations exclusively to grain, but the following spring added coal, flour and feed. During the five years of its existence it has handled approximately 560,000 bushels of wheat, 80,000 bushels of corn and 40,000 bushels of oats. Dividends have been paid as follows:

1910, 1911, 1912—8 per cent on stock; 8 mills per bushel on wheat bought from or sold to stockholders; 1 cent per bushel on corn and oats bought from or sold to stockholders; 5 per cent on coal, flour and feed sold to stockholders.

1913—8 per cent on stock; 1½ cents per bushel on wheat bought from or sold to stockholders; 1 cent per bushel on corn and oats bought from or sold to stockholders; 5 per cent on coal, flour and feed bought from or sold to stockholders.

1914—8 per cent on stock; 4 cents per bushel on wheat bought from or sold to stockholders; 1¼ cents per bushel on corn bought from or sold to stockholders; 1 cent per bushel on oats bought from or sold to stockholders; 50 cents per ton on hay bought from or sold to stockholders; 25 cents per sack on bran sold to stockholders; 20 cents per sack on shorts sold to stockholders; ½ cent per pound on buckwheat sold to stockholders; 30 cents per sack on oil meal sold to stockholders.

Five per cent has been set aside each year for depreciation on plant, this fund now amounting to \$1,113.92. The total net profit on business transacted approximates \$18,600. The surplus fund exceeds \$4,500. The plant is now valued at \$7,652.37, with real estate worth \$501.52. The capital stock has been increased to \$8,952 and the number of stockholders to 159. Undivided profits for the year 1914 amounted to \$8,267.31. The present officers and board of directors are: President, William Tucker; vice-president, James Beat, Sr.; secretary-treasurer, M. H. Kirk; directors, J. K. Hartnell and George Nuss.

## THE AURORA ELEVATOR COMPANY

Twenty-five Hamilton county farmers got together in the spring of 1908 and organized a co-operative grain association known as the Aurora Elevator Company. The venture proved very popular and the number of stockholders has continued to increase until at the present time there are 360 men in the company.

August 15th, 1908, the farmers' elevator was opened for business. J. W. Shorthill, now secretary of the state farmers' grain companies, and now residing at Hampton, was the first manager of the Aurora farmers' elevator. From the start the company enjoyed all the business they could handle and additions and



improvements have been continually made in order to take care of the fast growing business.

The company's Aurora elevator at Seventh street is of 30,000 bushel capacity of crib construction and is sheeted with galvanized iron.

In 1910 this company extended the business to Murphy by putting up a 30,000 bushel elevator. Later the company purchased the site for their mill west of Twelfth street along the railroad right-of-way. Last year the building of the company's new mill was started and this week sees the beginning of operations at the big plant of which Aurora is so proud. The new mill is built and equipped in the most modern way to turn the various Hamilton county grains into flour and the various by-products.

The mill as completed has a capacity of seventy-five barrels daily and is so planned that it can be converted into one hundred barrel capacity at any time should it become necessary. The storage capacity of the mill elevator will be about three thousand bushels. The mill is equipped throughout with the most modern machinery and will be operated by electrical power. The estimated cost at this time is in the neighborhood of \$16,000.00—a larger amount than was at first estimated.

To illustrate the spirit of co-operation which has made this big company's business so strong we learn that close to two hundred of the stockholders have donated fifty bushels of choice wheat to the mill for the first few months' grinding. With the present grand crop prospects it looks as though the mill could be run to capacity this entire year.

The officers in 1916 of the Aurora Elevator Company were: R. L. Mabon, president; S. B. Otto, vice president; D. M. Walker, secretary; T. M. Scott, treasurer.

In 1921 S. B. Otto is president and D. M. Walker secretary-treasurer.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE CITY OF AURORA

HAMILTON COUNTY'S PRIDE, THE CITY OF AURORA—HISTORY OF AURORA BY MRS. ROBERT MILLER—CITY GOVERNMENT—POSTMASTERS—MATERIAL PROGRESS OF CITY—THE BANKS—INDUSTRIES—AURORA BRICK YARDS—AURORA'S STORES—PETERSON STORE—DAVIDSON STORE—BUSINESS HOUSES 1905-1920 AND IN 1920.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY'S PRIDE—THE CITY OF AURORA

Aurora is handsomely located near the geographical center of the county, and is an important station of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska. It is tastily and regularly laid out, with a fine public square in the center, planted with rapidly growing forest trees, in the center of which stands the court house, and around it on all sides are the various business houses, compactly and substantially built. The original site of the town, situated upon the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 10, Range 6, was pre-empted by Darius Wilcox in the summer of 1871.

In March, 1871, a town company was formed at Chariton, Iowa, who proposed to go to Hamilton County, Nebraska, and locate a town which should become the county seat. They entered into the following agreement with each other:

This agreement, made and entered into this 9th day of March, 1871, by and between David Stone, Darius Wilcox, Robert Miller, James Doremus, J. Ray, N. H. Thorpe, S. P. Lewis, of Lucas County, Iowa, for the purpose of securing a title to Section 4, Township 10, Range 6, west.

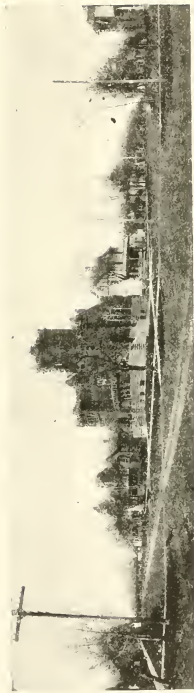
First—The parties hereto agree by these presents do hereby form themselves together and organize a company for the purpose of laying out and organizing and locating county seat, town or village in the county of Hamilton and State of Nebraska, upon the following express conditions:

It is agreed that David Stone be selected as a suitable person to visit Hamilton County, Nebraska, for the purpose of securing land for the location of said county seat, town or village.

Said Stone hereby expressly agrees to homestead in the name of the eight individual members of the company, if title can be procured in that manner, if not, locate in the name of each individual member of this company. It is further agreed that after said Stone secures the land described, being section four (4); township ten (10); range six (6) west, in Hamilton County, Nebraska, each of the above members, named parties, is to execute to each other, a bond for the individual conveyance of the undivided eighth part of the entire section, or conveyance of the lots to each other in any manner they may select to divide the same as soon as title to the same can be obtained; that the entire section shall be



HAMILTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, AURORA



LOOKING NORTH AND WEST FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AURORA



owned in common by all the parties named to this contract, eight in number, and each shall share and share alike in all the profits and losses, and each be entitled to the one-eighth part in virtue of the section.

It is agreed and understood by all the parties that individuals shall be and reside upon said land by the 1st day of June, 1871, in person or agent to assist in building up said town; a failure to comply with this stipulation shall work as a forfeiture of all his rights under this contract.

The said Stone agrees that during this trip to Nebraska he will keep a true account of all moneys expended by him, and the expenses of said Stone shall be equally borne by all parties to this contract.

It is further agreed that each party to this contract will, at the signing of the same, pay to said Stone the sum of thirty dollars, to be used by him in the securing the title to said land by pre-emption or homestead, subject to the laws of the United States in such case made and provided.

Witness our hands and seal this 7th day of March, 1871.

(Signed)

David Stone,  
Darius Wilcox,  
Robert Miller,  
James O. Doremus,  
Justinian Ray,  
Nathaniel H. Thorpe,  
Stillman P. Lewis.

Previous to this time S. P. Lewis, one of the party, had visited Hamilton County, and reported favorably of it, as will be seen by a glance at the terms of the original agreement. Mr. D. Stone was commissioned by the company to proceed to Hamilton County, and make claim to a site, for the prospective town.

He arrived at S. W. Spafford's place on Lincoln Creek, and after an examination of the county returned to Iowa. Disunion, however, arose in the organization and the plans of the town company came to naught. Robert Miller and N. H. Thorpe came out for the purpose of locating the town site, and were followed June 10 by Messrs. David Stone, Darius Wilcox and S. P. Lewis. The party camped on Lincoln Creek, on the northeast corner of Section 4. Shortly after D. Stone platted a town site on the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 10, Range 6, and on the night of June 19, 1871, the new town was named Aurora. After the collapse of the town company Mr. Wilcox pre-empted the northeast quarter of Section 4; D. Stone homesteaded eighty acres on the west half of Section 34, Township 11, Range 6, and E. D. Preston took a "claim" on the southeast quarter, Section 4, and Robert Miller made claim on the northwest quarter of the same section.

The original town site was surveyed and platted by Darius Wilcox and Mary A. E. Stone, and entered for record December 20, 1872.

It comprised the south half of the northeast quarter, and the south half of the north half of the northeast quarter of Section 4, Township 10, Range 6 west, a tract of 120 acres. The south addition includes the north half of the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 10, Range 6 west as pre-empted by Edgar D. Preston August 15, 1872, and entered as a town site, May 25, 1874, by Edgar D. Preston, Darius Wilcox, F. M. Ellsworth, Rebecca E. McPherson and Mary A. E. Stone. The next addition made was the Ellsworth Addition, a tract of about

sixty acres, the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the south half of the northwest quarter of Section 4, Township 10, Range 6 west. It was pre-empted by Robert Miller in June, 1871, who transferred it to F. M. Ellsworth, and was entered for record as a town by Ellsworth and Darius Wileox, November 3, 1878. Enterprise Addition was homesteaded by W. A. Johnson, in August, 1872, and comprises the northeast half of the southwest quarter, Section 4, Township 10, Range 6 west. It was entered as a town by Mr. Johnson, March 10, 1880.

In June, 1871, the town company erected the first house upon Section 4, a "dug-out," on the site now occupied by Chapman's agricultural implement store—the southwest corner, Block 12, original town.

In August of the same year David Stone erected the first frame building in the town, a store and residence, in which he opened the first stock of general merchandise brought to the new place. This was the old frame building later occupied by Chapman as a livery stable, on the southeast corner of Block 11, and was torn down in March, 1890, to make room for a more pretentious structure. The building later occupied by A. L. Bishop for an agricultural implement store, on the northwest corner of Block 17, was the third in the infant city, and was erected by Darius Wileox. It was occupied by him about a year, and was then turned into a store and occupied by Messrs. Bromstedte & Kleinschmidt, with a stock of general merchandise. Soon after Mr. Thorpe had an office built just south of the Wileox building, which was afterward removed. In 1872, the school-house (the building later used as a Catholic Church) was built, also the Aurora House, the part afterwards used as a sample room, and the sod blacksmith shop of John Schultz, which stood back from the street about where Peterson's store is located, and two or three other small buildings.

In 1873 fifteen or eighteen buildings were erected, and from this time on the growth of the village continued, each year adding more than the preceding.

The removal of the county seat in 1876 gave the town quite an impetus, which was much exceeded by that given it by the advent of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, in 1879.

It was incorporated as a village on July 3, 1877, John Helms, General Delevan Bates, W. H. Streeter, John Raben and Harry W. Kemper being appointed trustees. The first meeting of the board was held July 5, 1877, and John H. Helms was elected president, and W. L. Whittemore appointed clerk. For two years more the town struggled along, enduring all the inconveniences of lack of railroad and telegraph communication, until the fall of 1879, when it had attained a population of scarcely Four Hundred.

With the advent of the Republican Valley Railroad, a branch of the Burlington & Missouri River in Nebraska, which ran its first regular train into the town October 14, 1879, a great forward stride was made, and a period of activity ensued which rapidly carried the town into rank with her neighbors in surrounding counties which had had the advantage of railroad facilities at an earlier date.

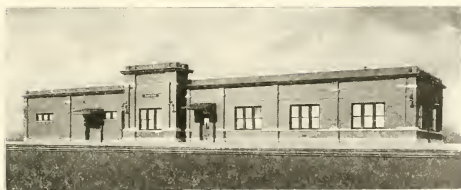
From this time on the growth of the city has been steady and continuous, and while there has never been what is commonly called a boom—the advantages of which, to a city, are of a very doubtful character—substantial improvements have constantly been going on, made and paid for, by the permanent residents, as the needs of the growing city have demanded them.



ROYAL HIGHLANDER BUILDING, AURORA



HAMILTON COUNTY TELEPHONE CO.,  
AURORA



BURLINGTON RAILROAD STATION, AURORA





## HISTORY OF AURORA

(The following short historical sketch of Aurora was prepared by Mrs. Robert Miller)

On April 6th, 1871, Nathan Thorpe and Robert Miller sighted the landmarks in this county. They were the twin cottonwood trees on the south bank of Lincoln creek and north of the business section of Aurora. These two trees were the only objects to be seen on these broad acres save numerous buffalo and antelope roaming at will.

These two men settled in northeast and northwest quarter of section four, town ten, range six, which is now a part of Aurora. In June of that year the town was laid out, David Stone being surveyor, Nathan Thorpe and Robert Miller, chairmen. The town was named by Mr. Stone for Aurora, Illinois, and not from the Aurora borealis, which was very luminous at that time, as some suppose.

Following this the first building was erected by R. Miller, on the corner where now stands the magnificent Highlander building, and was used by Mr. Stone for a general merchandise store, with a stock of goods valued at five hundred dollars. The family lived in the back part of this store. Soon one of their children died, having no cemetery laid out the body was buried near the bridge on the road which now leads to our cemetery. A few years ago this body was removed and placed beside that of the father.

In 1873 Aurora could boast of having twelve buildings, the foundations, however, were not of rock or stone but no floods came nor did winds blow, so the houses did not fall.

The same year began the county seat fight. This was for its removal from Orville to Aurora. In the first election Aurora received over two-thirds of the votes cast, which was the necessary majority at that time, but the commissioners would not order the removal. In 1874 another vote was taken; this time Aurora lacked one vote of the required number. Darins Wilcox went to Lincoln during the next winter to lobby during the legislature and was instrumental in having the law changed to read three-fifths of the votes cast would relocate the county seat. In May the commissioners called a special election but another difficulty arose that had to be surmounted. The village of Hamilton was started and entered into competition with Aurora; consequently the special election was called in Aurora having thirty majority over Hamilton; another election was called the following month and the majority was the same but in favor of Hamilton. In the fall election, 1875, the victory was won by Aurora. Now all rejoiced, for although their houses were not on solid foundations the town was, and buildings could be changed for better ones as thirty-seven years has proven.

The building on the corner east of F. C. Mather's residence was the first court house in Aurora. The building was moved from Orville and placed in the southwest part of the court yard, where it remained until the two story frame building in the center of the square was completed. The new building was used not only for county purposes but religious services, church socials and literary societies, as long as lack of a more suitable place made it necessary. It was destroyed by

fire in 1894 and replaced by the present building, which is a fitting monument to the wealth and prosperity of Hamilton County.

The block in Hamilton occupied by A. M. Glover was originally intended for the Hamilton court yard.

The first hotel was built in 1873; this was the Aurora house, whose proprietor was D. W. Rea, now of California. Soon after the Baptists built the first church; it was located on the corner south of the water works station. The Presbyterians built the second church. The late Rev. Giltner was their pastor at that time. The school was located in the south part of town, where the Catholic church now stands. This was used during the county fair as the agricultural hall, and a race track was made a block south of the school house. At this time bands of Indians frequently camped along Lincoln creek and occasionally passed this school; some of the pupils, being afraid, would hide under the seats and only after the last red-skin had passed, would they creep out, go to the windows and watch them depart down the dusty road. In a few years the school being crowded, the room above Williamson's drug store was rented and made into two school rooms. Eventually a four-room brick school building was erected on the present site. As necessity demanded additions and changes were made until it reached completion; nothing more could be added; even with a good ward school, there was not enough room. A large and beautiful building is in course of construction as the result.

Hamilton county's first physician was the late Dr. Noble, of Seattle, who died the morning after his arrival almost one year ago at the home of Mrs. Pinnell, in this city.

The drug store was on the east side and owned by the late Dr. Myers, father of Dr. L. G. Myers.

Mr. Nissen had the grocery store which was located on the east side, and after a time was bought out by Mr. Stone and from his possession it passed to the control of Mr. W. C. Chambers.

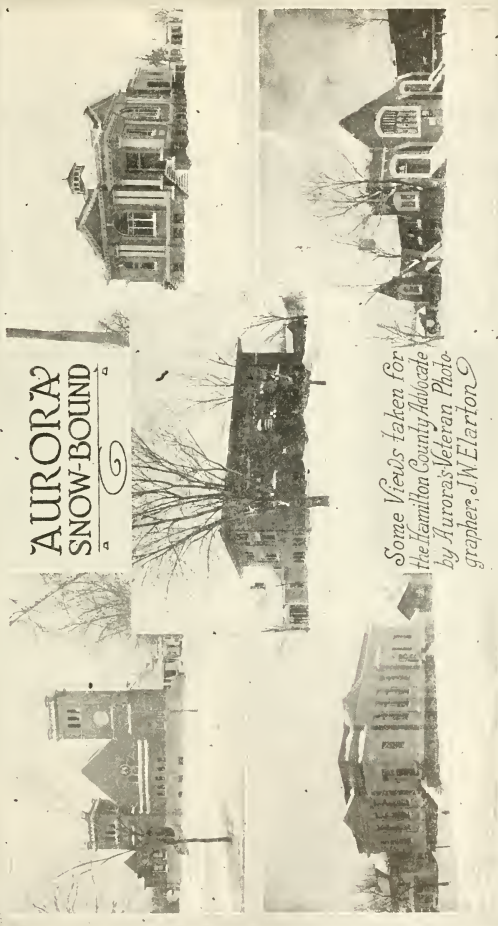
Nathan Spafford was postmaster, followed by Jno. Tweedy, who served a number of years. The postoffice was located on the north side where a recent fire destroyed three buildings.

J. H. Bell had a lumber yard on the southeast corner of the square. P. M. Green put in a yard after the Railroad Bonds were voted, and several other branches of business were then started.

The railroad bonds carried in 1879. At this time Aurora lacked a few things, fire works and torches were among them, but "necessity is the mother of invention," whereupon balls of cotton were soaked in turpentine and at night they were lighted and the men marched around the square tossing these balls of fire into the air.

The track was laid, and stage line discontinued. From this time on the advancement was more rapid; today Aurora is truly the city beautiful with its broad streets, splendid business blocks, beautiful homes, fine trees and well kept lawns. With a good system of water works and electric lights. With sewerage in process of construction and prosperity beckoning to us on every side surely we are more than contented. We are happy in this part of the land of the free and the home of the brave.

AURORA  
SNOW-BOUND



*Some Views taken for  
the Hamilton County Advocate  
by Aurora's Veteran Photo-  
grapher, J.W. Elarton*



## CITY GOVERNMENT

The following is a roster of the officials from its incorporation as a village in 1877: 1877—Hon. John H. Helms, Gen. Delevan Bates, W. H. Streeter, John Raben, Henry W. Kemper; W. L. Whittemore, clerk of the board; 1878—Hon. John H. Helms, W. S. Strain, D. Wilcox, John Raben, George Wildish; W. L. Whittemore, clerk; 1879—Hon. J. H. Helms, W. H. Waters, George Wildish, John Raben, Henry Moyer; W. L. Whittemore, clerk; 1880—Hon. J. H. Helms, John Raben, Thomas C. Klumb, H. G. Rogers, Henry Moyer; W. I. Farley, clerk; 1881—W. H. Alden, J. B. Myers, P. M. Green, C. H. Kimball, W. I. Farley, Henry Sargent; William P. Hellings, clerk; 1882—Chairman, John W. Thiery; clerk, William P. Hellings; treasurer, D. Bates; trustees, John W. Thiery, N. C. Rogers, Jacob Wolbach, F. P. Gavan and F. H. Stevens; 1883—Chairman, John W. Thiery; clerk, William P. Hellings; treasurer, D. Bates; trustees, John W. Thiery, F. P. Gavan, Jacob Wolbach, F. H. Stevens and A. D. Travis;

1884—Chairman, H. G. Cass; clerk, D. W. Fisher; treasurer, John Tweedy; trustees, H. G. Cass, Robert Waddle, George Wildish, A. P. Wells and F. C. Mather; 1885—Chairman, George Wildish; clerk, Walter C. Chambers; treasurer, D. Bates; trustees, George Wildish, H. G. Cass, Robert Waddle, F. C. Mather, M. French; 1886—(Village changed to city by operation of statute, and city divided into three wards) Mayor, W. F. Peck; clerk, Samuel Spanogle; treasurer, D. Bates; engineer, D. B. Parks; police judge, W. K. Ream; city attorney, A. J. Rittenhouse; chief of police, W. Z. Pollard; street commissioner, J. M. Day; councilmen—First Ward, J. N. Cassell, Fritz Hofer; Second Ward, J. B. Rogers, J. H. Moore; Third Ward, M. T. Wildish, A. G. Peterson;

1887—Mayor, W. I. Farley; clerk, William P. Hellings; treasurer, D. Bates; police judge, D. A. Scovill; engineer, D. B. Parks; attorney, J. H. Smith; chief of police, I. O. Whitesides; street commissioner, D. B. Parks; councilmen—First Ward, J. N. Cassell, S. B. Chapman; Second Ward, William Kramer, Samuel Spanogle; Third Ward, J. W. Elarton, William H. Alden; 1888—Mayor, Delevan Bates; clerk, L. W. Shuman; treasurer, Fritz Hofer; police judge, Phil Likes; engineer, D. B. Parks; attorney, D. M. Waite; chief of police, D. R. Noble; street commissioner, James A. Day; councilmen—First Ward, S. B. Chapman, J. N. Cassell; Second Ward, H. M. Kellogg, E. Jones; Third Ward, J. W. Elarton, W. H. Alden; 1889—Mayor, A. N. Thomas; clerk, William P. Hellings; treasurer, J. D. Ferguson, Jr.; police judge, D. A. Scovill; engineer, D. B. Parks; attorney, W. J. Stevenson; chief of police, J. G. Baeschlin; councilmen—First Ward, J. N. Cassell, J. H. Smith; Second Ward, H. M. Kellogg, Delevan Bates; Third Ward, H. B. Witte, T. E. Williams.

## CITY COUNCIL OF AURORA

In this record from 1890 to 1915 filled from other sources only for 1906-1910-1911-1912. 1890—J. N. Cassell, Daniels, Chapman, Kohn, Miller, Bates, Kellogg, H. E. Metzger; 1891—John Shean, Liebhart, Chapman, Thomas, Miller, Bates, Kellogg, H. E. Metzger; 1892—John Shean, Daniels, Chapman, Thomas, Cassell, Bates, Kellogg, H. E. Metzger; 1893—Delevan Bates, Daniels, Chapman, Kohn, Miller, Skinner, Kellogg, P. A. Farney; 1894—P. L. Bishop, Bates, Johnson,

Thomas, Miller, Skinner, Kellogg, J. B. Cunningham; 1895—P. L. Bishop, Bates, Johnson, F. I. Sharp, Miller, Skinner, Kellogg, J. B. Cunningham, J. P. Chapman, D. B. Parks, J. S. Mussen; 1901—N. J. Ronin, J. N. Cassell, F. Hoefler, Theo. Widaman, A. T. Pares, A. O. Harquist, Leo Thumer, Wm. Baldwin; 1905—John, A. Whitmore, J. R. Davidson, Fred Jeffers, Elmer Olson, A. W. Steele, N. J. Ronin, Frank A. Burt, Dennis Taylor, J. A. Isaman, J. H. Grosvenor; 1906—F. J. Sharp, Frank A. Burt, A. Grosshans, Fred Jeffers, Elmer Olson, A. W. Steele, N. J. Ronin, O. H. Herbig; 1910—A. Grosshans, A. E. Peterson, J. H. Van Wormer, H. E. Grosvenor, Elmer Olson, A. W. Steele, N. J. Ronin, Glenn Chapman; 1911—F. J. Sharp, A. E. Peterson, J. H. VanWormer, Stokesbery, Elmer Olson, A. W. Steele, O. M. Newman, J. F. Cole; 1912—F. J. Sharp, A. E. Peterson, J. H. VanWormer, Stokesbery, Leymaster, A. W. Steele, O. M. Newman, J. F. Cole, J. A. Warman; 1913—Robert Chapman, A. E. Peterson, J. H. VanWormer, J. W. Stokesbery, Elmer Olson, A. Grosshans, O. M. Newman, J. F. Cole, A. E. Houser; 1914—Robert Chapman, A. E. Peterson, Isaac, J. W. Stokesbery, Elmer Olson, A. Grosshans, O. M. Newman, J. F. Cole; 1915—J. M. Woodard, A. E. Peterson, W. P. Isaac, C. R. Scovill, A. Grosshans, O. M. Newman, J. F. Cole, George Waneke; 1916—J. M. Woodard, Quinn, W. P. Isaac, C. R. Scovill, J. E. Schoonover, A. Grosshans, J. F. Cole, G. R. Haworth; 1917—W. I. Farley, Quinn, W. P. Isaac, C. R. Scovill, J. E. Schoonover, D. E. Waters, R. R. Chapman, G. R. Haworth; 1918—J. W. Newman, G. H. Baird, C. R. Scovill, J. E. Schoonover, G. H. Houser, J. F. Cole, R. R. Chapman, G. R. Haworth; 1919—F. E. Quinn, G. Anawalt, C. R. Scovill, A. Grosshans, G. H. Houser, J. F. Cole, R. R. Chapman, G. R. Haworth; 1920—F. E. Quinn, G. Anawalt, C. R. Scovill, N. J. Ronin, G. E. Houser, O. H. Herbig, R. R. Chapman, Carl Swanson; 1921—F. E. Quinn, G. Anawalt, Willis, N. J. Ronin, G. H. Houser, O. H. Herbig, C. L. Whitney, Carl Swanson.

#### POSTMASTERS

The post-office was moved to Aurora from Spafford's Grove in 1872 and David Stone became post-master. He was succeeded by A. Kitzmiller, who removed the office in 1874 to the west side of the square, to the site now occupied by Temple Block, where he was succeeded July, 1874, by N. P. Spafford, who filled the position of Postmaster until 1878. In that year Mr. John Tweedy was appointed to the position, which he still occupied in 1890. He removed the office that year to the building erected by Gen. Bates. The office at the time Mr. Tweedy was appointed paid about \$600. In 1890 the office was paying \$1,600 per annum. The business of the office for 1889 amounted to \$4,766.44. A. M. Glover succeeded Tweedy, A. N. Thomas came next. J. Galden filled out part of his term and served under McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft administrations, and J. H. Grosvenor, the present postmaster, went in under Wilson.

#### MATERIAL PROGRESS OF THE CITY

The first brick building erected in the town was the Hamilton County Bank building, in 1879, followed in 1881 by A. G. Peterson's building and that of the First National Bank. The Temple Block, Republican Building and the Aurora



LOOKING NORTH AND WEST FROM T. E. WILLIAMS' HOME, AURORA



A HAMILTON COUNTY WHEAT CROP ON THE REBER HOMESTEAD





Banking Company's building, all erected in 1888 and 1889, were among the finest structures in the city. A fine brick jail was built by the county in 1888, at a cost of over \$7,000, the first story being fitted with two steel cells and arranged with reception rooms and offices, the second floor being designed for a residence for the sheriff of the county. An excellent system of water-works was put in by the city in the same year, including stand-pipes, steam-pumps, together with a substantial brick building, serving as pumping-station and hose house, a fire department being organized in the same year, consisting of hose company and hook and ladder company.

The city is well supplied with railroad facilities, four branches of the Burlington & Missouri system converging at this point; the main line east and west, extending from St. Louis, Missouri, to Billings, Montana. The Central City branch affords direct communication with the North Platte country, and the Hastings branch with the Republican Valley and the West.

During 1889 there were shipped from this point 451 cars of corn, flax 125, oats 175, cattle 123, hogs 177, butter 15, eggs 1, brick 15, total 1,087 cars.

Among the early banking and manufacturing interests of the city was The Hamilton County Bank, established in 1877, by George Wildish. In 1886 W. H. Streeter bought out Mr. Wildish, after which time the business was conducted by him, with W. C. Chambers as cashier.

This bank carried on until in 1896 it absorbed by consolidation the Aurora Bank Company and in 1900 was itself absorbed by or consolidated into the First National Bank.

A comparative statement of bank deposits of Aurora's banks for eight years from 1893 to 1900 which was prepared and published during a political campaign for purposes of making contrasting comparisons between republican and democratic administrations will serve for us the historical purpose of recording the comparative growth and progress of the various banks, and also reflecting the financial conditions during the drought years of the Nineties.

## BANK DEPOSITS

## A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR EIGHT YEARS.

SEPTEMBER, 1893.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$155,364 35
First National Bank.....	56,906 89
Aurora Bank Company.....	68,528 69
Aurora State Bank.....	47,379 87
Farley's Bank.....	48,754 61
Total Deposits.....	\$376,934 41

APRIL, 1894.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$135,137 65
First National Bank.....	43,697 11
Aurora Bank Company.....	77,214 38
Aurora State Bank.....	62,509 11
Farley's Bank.....	42,403 94
Total Deposits.....	\$360,962 19

## APRIL, 1895.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$112,558	36
First National Bank.....	51,444	69
Aurora Bank Company.....	45,870	34
Aurora State Bank.....	46,126	81
Farley's Bank.....	33,773	42

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Total Deposits.....\$289,773 62

## APRIL, 1896.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$144,558	44
First National Bank.....	43,345	23
Aurora Bank Company.....		
Aurora State Bank.....	47,191	67
Farley's Bank.....	25,142	90

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Total Deposits.....\$260,238 24

## MARCH, 1897.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$158,480	73
First National Bank.....	46,587	25
Aurora State Bank.....	46,268	81
Farley's Bank.....	22,488	41

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Total Deposits.....\$274,925 21

## FEBRUARY, 1898.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$195,099	07
First National Bank.....	66,126	72
Aurora State Bank.....	60,313	10
Farley's Bank.....	35,960	59

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Total Deposits.....\$357,499 48

## MARCH, 1899.

Hamilton County Bank.....	\$250,410	53
First National Bank.....	75,565	87
Aurora State Bank.....	68,197	89
Farley's Bank.....	45,132	47

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Total Deposits.....\$439,306 76

## MARCH, 1900.

Hamilton County Bank.....		
First National Bank.....	\$314,486	39
Aurora State Bank.....	74,593	82
Farley's Bank.....	48,095	80

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Total Deposits.....\$437,176 01

The First National Bank was organized in April, 1883. This bank was the successor of the Bank of Aurora, started in August, 1879, by Grimes & Dinsmore. In 1882 the firm of McKay, Munger & Wentz, became the owners and operated the institution until succeeded by the First National Bank in 1883. T. A. McKay



Y. M. C. A. BUILDING, AURORA



AURORA HOUSE, AURORA



becoming president, and W. C. Wentz, cashier. In 1886 Mr. McKay sold his interest to J. H. Bell, who became president, J. F. Houseman assuming the duties of cashier. Mr. Houseman played a long, active and important part in moulding the banking policies and history of Hamilton County as attested by the following, published at the time of his death :

"John Fordyce Houseman was born at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, March 15, 1844, and died at his home in Aurora, December 3, 1917, aged 73 years, 8 months and 18 days. The early years of his life were spent in Mount Pleasant, where he was educated at Iowa Wesleyan University. September 19, 1867, he was married to Miss Estella Margaret Bell of Mount Pleasant. There were born to them three sons, Frank of Omaha, Charles, who died in 1889, and Ralph of Omaha. His wife, two sons, two brothers, and two sisters survive him.

"Mr. Houseman's business career began with two terms as the county treasurer of Henry county, Iowa. He then went into the mercantile business, which he pursued until coming to Aurora in 1887. Here he went into the banking business with his brother-in-law, J. H. Bell. He continued with the First National Bank for ten years, when he transferred his interests to the bank at Bradshaw, where for the last twenty years, he has been engaged in an enterprise which has elicited the highest words of commendation from all who have been associated with him in it.

"Mr. Houseman was a member of the Masonic fraternity, having his membership in the Bradshaw lodge. He was a member of the Royal Highlanders. He was also a member of the G. A. R., having served during the Civil war in the Fourth Iowa cavalry. At the age of 18, he was private secretary to Major C. F. Searman. He was one of the earliest members of the Aurora Presbyterian church and served actively in many capacities for a number of years. For a long time he was the honored superintendent of the Sunday school. He was an elder much honored and loved by the people. For several years prior to going to Bradshaw he served as the clerk of the church session. Both his faithfulness and his accuracy made him a highly desirable man in such a position.

"Mr. Houseman was a gentleman of the old school, always courteous, smiling, patient, industrious; his is a figure which will be missed by a circle as large as his acquaintance. To many men he has proven a steadfast friend during some of Nebraska's trying years, and in the enumeration of friendships made, his will be given a large place in many lives. His interest in the church has been keen throughout the later years, though that interest outran his strength to do. He retained a lively interest in business until the very last.

"During the last few months his friends were conscious of his declining strength, and especially these last few weeks, but he seemed to be rallying nicely and hope had builded itself again. However, on Monday after spending the larger part of the day in and about the home, he laid down for a brief rest and then 'He was not, for God took him.'

"The funeral service will be from the Presbyterian church on Thursday afternoon, December 6th, at 2:30 o'clock, Rev. J. H. Salisbury, D. D., pastor of the church, in charge. The Masonic lodge of Bradshaw will be in charge of the interment, which will be in the Aurora cemetery."

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank was organized in April, 1883, by W. H. Streeter, E. J. Hainer and W. I. Farley. In 1886 Mr. Streeter withdrew, in

order to take charge of the Hamilton County Bank, and the business was continued by E. J. Hainer and W. I. Farley, until 1888, when Mr. Farley's interest was purchased by E. J. Hainer (who became president) and T. E. Williams (Cashier).

T. E. Williams came to Aurora from Eau Claire, Wis., in March, 1888, to accept the position of cashier in the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, of which W. H. Streeter was president. He remained in that capacity through various mergers, first with the Hamilton County Bank in 1890, next with the Aurora Banking Company in 1896 and finally with the First National in 1898. The last merger was really a continuation of the Hamilton County Bank under the name and charter of the First National. The Hamilton County Bank's deposits at the time of the consolidation were over \$200,000, while the First National's were only \$70,000. Each bank had a capital of \$50,000. One-half of this amount was turned into surplus, and the business has since been continued with \$50,000 capital and \$50,000 surplus. When the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank was merged into the Hamilton County Bank in 1890 each had deposits in the neighborhood of \$50,000. The deposits of the First National in 1915 amounted to \$825,000 with footings of \$945,000.

Upon the death of Mr. Streeter in 1907 Mr. Williams was elected president of the bank and has held that position ever since. To his energy, good management and the implicit confidence reposed in him by the people of the community is due the remarkable growth of the bank and its present strength.

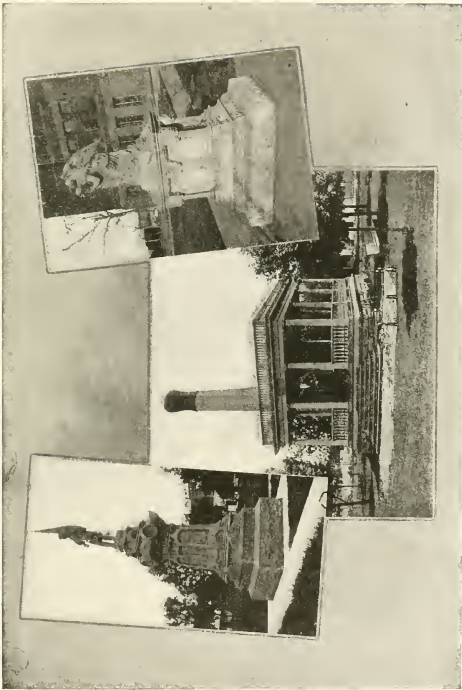
The First National continued under the regime of President Bell, Vice President Delevan Bates and Cashier Honseman until 1895, or so, when Wm. Glover was for a time President. In 1898 when the merger with the Hamilton County Bank brought the two institutions together and they were continued as one under the First National Bank's charter, then T. E. Williams became the guiding factor in the greater First National.

The later transfers affecting changes in administration of this bank are recounted in the two following accounts of changes in 1917 and 1919, and its present status included in the 1921 table of Hamilton County banks.

"An active banking career of almost thirty years was closed in August, 1917. T. E. Williams sold his stock in the First National Bank of Aurora to E. J. Hainer and turned the active management over to Yale B. Huffman. The directors immediately met and organized by electing Mr. Hainer president and Mr. Huffman cashier. J. D. Ferguson will continue to act as vice-president.

"W. I. Farley and John Farley also sever their connections with the bank, their stock being acquired by Mr. Huffman. S. K. Warrick of Scottsbluff secures a substantial interest in the bank, but neither he nor Mr. Hainer will live here or take an active part in its management. This will be left entirely in the hands of Mr. Huffman, who is already on the ground and who will bring his family here as soon as suitable living arrangements can be made. Roger Work and Mac Ferguson will remain as assistant cashier and book-keeper respectively."

"Wednesday, July 3, 1919, being the day on which the ownership and management of the First National Bank passed from the hands of E. J. Hainer, Yale Huffman and other stockholders to W. I. Farley, A. W. Hickman, and their associated stockholders. The big transaction actually took place several weeks ago, as reported in the papers at that time, but the date for the transfer was fixed



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT  
In Court-House Square

SCENES IN AURORA

BAND STAND  
In Memorial Park

WEeping ANGEL

A monument, in Memorial Park, to the unknown soldier dead of our Civil war, presented by General Delavan Bates.





as of July first. Of the several changes that have occurred in the First National in recent years this is perhaps the most important, because it places the ownership entirely in the hands of well known Hamilton county people.

"The transfer of the big business actually occurred on Tuesday evening of last week, when the interested parties met and at which time the new owners elected officers. The officers under the new management are W. I. Farley president, A. W. Hickman, vice president, J. J. Refshauge cashier, T. R. Work assistant cashier. F. C. Mather is a member of the board of directors also. W. I. Farley and A. W. Hickman have been connected with the banking interests of the county so long that they have long passed the place where introductions to the public are necessary. Roger Work, who remains with the new management as assistant cashier, has been with the bank so long that he is really just about as much a fixture as the big vault itself. J. J. Refshauge, who is chosen as cashier, has been connected with the Farley and Hickman banking house at Marquette for many years and has been the responsible head of that institution for a long time. He is a thoroughly qualified banker and business man, possesses great energy and a very wide acquaintance. He will not be a new man in the Hamilton county field, but is merely transplanted to a larger business."

Aurora State Bank was organized in June 1889, and was the successor of the Aurora Exchange Bank, established October 1, 1886, by T. A. McKay and Spangle & Company. The officers were: D. E. Thompson, president; A. G. Peterson, vice-president and Harvey Cole, cashier. A handsome stone front brick building was erected by W. I. Farley, J. D. Ferguson, Jr., J. B. Rogers and E. J. Waddle, in which a bank was opened under the name of the Aurora Banking Company.

A very explicit account of the progress of this bank was recounted when a sale was made in 1915 of the institution when C. C. Hansen and son Thorwald J. Hansen, now of Omaha, then of Grand Island, purchased it. Another account at the same time recounts both the banking and mercantile achievements of A. G. Peterson, wife and son in the community.

"The Aurora National Bank was organized in 1889 by D. E. Thompson, E. Bignell, A. G. Peterson, J. B. Cain and Fritz Hoefler. Mr. Peterson was cashier for a long time but has been president for the past 15 years. The bank was originally located on the present site of the D. A. Johnson clothing store but moved when its new home at the northwest corner of the square was completed. With the retirement of Mr. Peterson, Fritz Hoefler and J. B. Cain are the only incorporators who still retain their connection with the bank, the former being vice-president and the latter a director. The present stockholders, in addition to the Hansens, are: Mrs. Mary E. Tamblin of Lincoln, Oscar Gunnarson, J. B. Cain, L. C. Opper, B. F. Garrett, E. E. Mighell, David Sims, Elizabeth Hoefler, Fritz Hoefler and S. M. Day.

The Hansens, father and son, are among the best known bankers and business men in Nebraska. They now control banking houses at Grand Island, Cairo, St. Libory, Elba, Cotesfield, Wolbach and Aurora, besides extensive jobbing interests. They have been uniformly successful in all of their undertakings and will undoubtedly maintain the same record in the new field they have entered. Grand Island advices are to the effect that some changes in the bank's system of doing business are contemplated, but these have not yet been definitely decided upon.

The statement of the Aurora National Bank, May 1, 1915, showed loans

and discounts of \$154,743.39; surplus, \$25,000; undivided profits, \$12,073.64; deposits, \$100,188.28.

In June, 1915, a sale was made by A. G. Peterson, wife and son Henry of 596 of the 750 shares of the Aurora National bank of this city, control,—and, largely ownership, passing to the financiers at the head of the Grand Island National bank, the oldest banking institution in the third city of Nebraska.

A. G. Peterson has been interested in mercantile business in Aurora for thirty-seven years. For twenty-seven years he has been engaged in banking here. The sale is made to give him an opportunity more nearly to retire from the cares of business and relieve him from responsibilities that he was finding irksome. He has always been one of the leading citizens of the community. He has built up industries, as well as erected buildings, and the city will never become so large that his impulse along lines of solid prosperity in its early days cannot be distinctly traced. What buildings he has been concerned in he has favored permanence of construction, and his influence has always been in favor of industries that would endure. He still retains interests in lumber, merchandising, real estate and other things, and as ever expects to make Aurora his life-long home, but he will, as he has earned the right to be, take a course that will less actively identify him with the stress of business life, and that will enable him to enjoy more of the fruition of his labors. All honor, success and happiness to A. G. Peterson.

The purchase does not include the real estate and building, the banking rooms of which have been leased by the new owners for two years with privilege of five. It is understood that if any of the other stockholders desire to sell their interests will be taken over. The date of the transfer of operation is set for August 1. Additional men may be employed, but it is said that the working force will be retained by the new management. As the Aurora National bank has been a great factor in our growth and progress, so also the transfer will be intimately connected with our future.

Banks like persons and cities have a distinct individuality and it is of vital importance to all Hamilton county what may be expected from this new source of financial life blood. The Grand Island National bank is the oldest in that city and never has it been under more progressive management. The head of the institution was a pioneer settler of Hamilton county. At one time he owned eighty acres of land here. Jacob K. Hansen, whose family is still living on the old homestead seven miles north of Hampton, was his brother. There is acquaintance with some of the old Danish neighbors and families of the early day, and all of them have been aware of his subsequent rise in worldly prosperity after he went to Grand Island, without capital, to begin his struggle with the world. At one time he was an employe of the Wolbach establishment. When he went to Dannebrog, in 1885, he engaged in the mercantile line, but afterward drifted into banking.

The list of stockholders in the old Aurora State Bank in the early nineties furnishes an interesting historical glimpse of those in the community financially active then.

#### DIRECTORS

Andrew G. Peterson; John B. Cain; Fritz Hoefler; Edward Bignell; Frank C. Putnam; Van O. English; D. E. Thompson.

## STOCKHOLDERS

Alfred W. Agee; Andrew G. Peterson; Harvey Cole; Fritz Hoefler; Frank C. Putnam; Simpson M. Day; E. E. Mighell; A. A. Hartquest; William Glover; Swan Youngquest; K. J. Cain; C. C. Coon; J. B. Cain; J. W. Trammell; L. J. McKern; Van O. English; William Kramer; E. Thompson; Edward Bignell; J. L. Tidball; C. D. Mullen; W. L. Dayton; E. Cain; D. E. Thompson; S. P. Hough; Martin Hanawald.

A comparative statement of deposits of the various Hamilton County Banks, their officers, and other notations of changes for 1910, 1916 and 1921 will serve to show their proportionate progress in recent years: In 1910, Aurora National Bank, A. G. Peterson, President; F. Hoefler, Vice-president; W. C. Keck, Cashier; deposits, \$154,000. Farmers State Bank, J. L. Evans, president; J. A. Isaman, Vice-President; G. Wanek, Cashier; started in 1909, deposits \$34,000. Fidelity National Bank, A. E. Seikman, President; V. Swanson, Vice-president; C. S. Brown, Cashier; deposits, \$83,000. First National Bank, T. E. Williams, President; J. D. Ferguson, Vice-president; T. R. Work, Assistant Cashier; deposits, \$532,000. First National Bank, started in 1884, A. B. Houghton, President; S. C. Houghton, Cashier; Deposits, \$210,640. Bank of Bromfield, William Glover, President; E. A. Glover, Vice-president; C. O. Glover, Cashier; B. M. Glover and Eric Wright, Assistant Cashiers, started in 1886; deposits, \$135,000. Citizens' Bank, started in 1906, J. S. Marvel, President; M. Wagner, Vice-president; L. J. Gallentine, Cashier; deposits, \$113,000. First National Bank, since 1889, W. I. Farley, President; A. W. Hickman, Vice-president; J. J. Refshauge, Cashier; deposits, \$160,000. Bank of Phillips since 1884, L. E. Otto, President; J. A. Camft, Vice-president; Harry Peard, Cashier; deposits, \$110,000. Stockham State Bank, A. B. Houghton, President; S. C. Houghton, Vice-president; J. D. Hamilton, Cashier, started in 1904; deposits, \$61,000.

In 1916, the deposits were: Farmers' State Bank, Aurora, \$200,000. Fidelity National Bank, Aurora, \$390,000. First National Bank, Aurora, \$489,000. First Savings Bank, with W. C. Wentz as President; F. E. Quinn, Vice-president; C. W. Wentz, Cashier; started in 1913, had \$53,000 deposits. Bank of Bromfield, Giltner, \$185,000. Citizens' Bank, Giltner, \$137,000. First National Bank at Hampton, \$245,000. A second bank at Hampton, started in 1912, Farmers' State Bank with A. E. Seikman as President; C. S. Brown, Vice-president; A. S. Gausman, Cashier, had reached \$156,000 deposits. First National Bank, Marquette, \$225,000 and it also had a rival started in 1913, Farmers' State Bank, with H. Smith, President; Ira Smith, Vice-president, and A. W. Jenson, Cashier, and deposits of \$60,000. Bank of Phillips, deposits \$135,000. This bank in 1916 had a new management, F. W. Shuster, president; W. T. Deering, Vice-President; C. M. Carlson, now of Doniphan, Nebraska, Cashier, and Ethel Peard, Assistant Cashier. Stockham State Bank had deposits of \$45,000; and a new rival, Farmers' State Bank, Wm. Tucker, President; A. Grosshans, Cashier, had started in 1913.

In 1921 the status of Hamilton County Banks is: Farmers' State Bank, same officers, deposits, \$530,000. Fidelity State Bank, \$740,000. First National Bank, \$660,000. First Trust Co., E. J. Hainer, President; P. J. Refshauge, Secretary and Treasurer, and Dr. E. A. Steenburg, Vice-president. The new American State Bank, fostered by the Wentz family, failed in 1920, with disastrous results

to many people. Giltner State Bank, more fully accounted for hereafter, \$250,000. Citizens' State Bank \$215,000. Farmers' State Bank of Hampton, \$260,000. First National Bank of Hampton, \$300,000. Hordville, First State Bank, started in 1907, W. I. Farley, President; A. W. Hickman, Vice-president; L. G. Crampton, Cashier; R. C. Gustafson, Assistant Cashier, has in 1921 deposits of \$220,000. First National of Marquette, \$310,000. Farmers' State Bank of Marquette with Henry Smith, President; John Benson, Vice-president; A. W. Jensen, Cashier, and C. W. May, Assistant Cashier, had deposits of \$140,000. The Bank of Phillips, with E. C. Huxtable, Cashier, \$190,000 deposits, and Stockham State Bank with Frank W. Sloan now President; Geo. B. Miles, Cashier; Wm. Tucker, Vice-president, had \$180,000 deposits.

The old Bank of Bromfield for so many years under the charge of the Glover family was recently changed to the Giltner State Bank, with Charles S. Brown, as first President, and Fred Burr, Vice-president, and John Wulstein, remaining as Cashier. More recently Fred Burr has assumed Vice-presidency and Cashiership together.

First State Bank of Murphy, started in 1915, W. I. Farley, President; A. W. Hickman, Vice-president; I. M. Bengston, Cashier, and Ethel Moore, Assistant Cashier; deposits in 1921, \$175,000.

#### INDUSTRIES

The Aurora Roller Mills were built in 1884 by Curry & Glover. The mill was equipped with first-class modern machinery, but in 1888 the flouring machinery was removed to Dakota, and the mill has since been adapted to grinding corn and feed. In the late 'eighties it was owned by a Chicago commission house and used as a grain elevator.

The Aurora Machine Shops of H. T. Jensen were established in 1884. The business consisted largely of repairing farm machinery and the manufacture of "patent feed steamers," the "right" to which was owned by Mr. Jensen.

The Aurora Foundry was established in the fall of 1886 by F. W. Wilson. Later Mr. Wilson erected a good brick building, which he moved his machinery into as soon as it was completed.

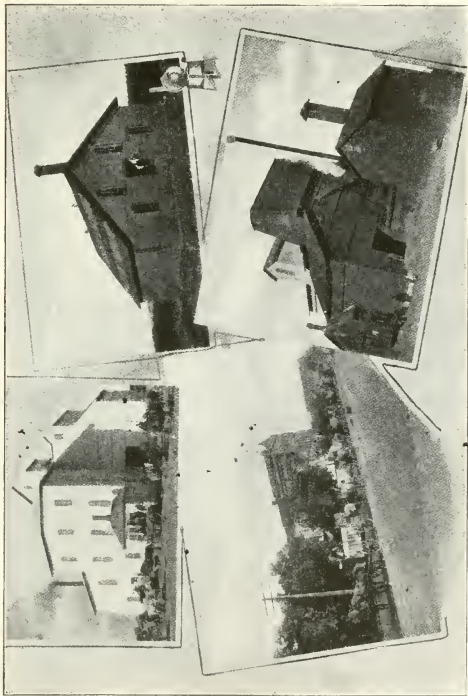
There were also three extensive brick-yards here, all doing a good business.

The Aurora Creamery Company was organized in the spring of 1887, the stock being owned by a large number of the business men of the city. In the fall of 1888 the building—a frame structure—was entirely destroyed by fire. The stock was then bought up by a few of the original stockholders, who proceeded to erect a brick building suited to the needs of the business. The owners of the stock in later years were, Hon. J. H. Smith, E. J. Hainer and W. A. Carpenter.

#### AURORA BRICK YARD

When the Aurora brick yard was started in 1904, Adolph Blunk was put in charge of it. He remained here until 1909 and developed the local business into one of much profit. Later the Blunk family moved to Grand Island where Mr. Blunk died.

C. W. Lakin, who had been at Klose & Company's plant at Doniphan previously, came to superintend the Aurora brick yard. It is in the selection



OLD AURORA WASHING MACHINE FACTORY  
OLD FERGUSON GRAIN ELEVATOR

AURORA

OLD AURORA FLOUR MILLS  
JACOB MOSES MARKETING WHEAT



of such capable and faithful men as Mr. Lakin that the company has been able to produce such remarkable results. Chas. Lakin came to Aurora about five years ago and in that short time he has built up a business and a close friendship such as few men are able to make in a community in a lifetime.

Messrs. Klose and Schwynn of Doniphan organized the Klose Brick Company about 1900. Three plants were built from time to time, one at Lincoln, one at Doniphan and in 1904 the one at Aurora. The Aurora and Doniphan plants each cost about \$40,000.00 and the big plant just west of Lincoln is a half million dollar concern.

Mr. Schwynn died about 1911. Mr. Klose became a millionaire and spent his late years largely in Florida and other points, in ease. Charles Lakin managed the Aurora plant for seven years, and Henry Mapes has managed it the last two years. Mrs. Klose is the owner of the Aurora plant, and the C. Klose Company own the Lincoln plant. The capacity of the Aurora plant has reached five million bricks per year, but of course in 1921 work is slack, due to the financial depression, and with two million bricks on hand it does not expect to open work very early in the summer of 1921, if at all.

#### AURORA'S STORES

The business industries in Aurora in 1895 were: General stores: Kim Kay Company, N. P. Spaffon, W. W. Thamberger, Peterson Brothers, J. R. Davidson, W. H. Alden & Company, E. H. Jackson, W. H. Fairchild. Dry Goods: The Racket, J. E. Dean. Drugs: C. A. Goodens, Dr. D. S. Woodard & Sons, C. K. McKee & Company. Clothing: Westwelt Brothers, Forbes Clothing Company. Furniture: Munson Brothers, B. A. Munson. Hardware: Temple Block Hardware, George Venton, McErew & Nickols, J. B. Hunter. Shoes: Thomas & Vandell, O. H. Darling. Groceries: V. Swanson, Farmers' Exchange, J. Sheen & Son. Meat Markets: Everybodys' Meat Market, Wm. Weingarten. H. M. Jeffry Photo Gallery, Barlyton Hotel, City Hotel, Tuttle House, Aurora House. C. N. Deitz, lumber. Aurora Business Association, Dalkey & Jensen, flour and feed. Wales & Eaton.

The business industries of Aurora from 1900 to 1905 were: Farmers' Alliance Mutual Insurance Company, B. F. Isaman, secretary; The Hub Department Company, J. R. Davidson & Company, Fair Store, D. A. Johnson & Company, J. Krasne, general store, J. E. Dean, dry goods, W. J. Palmer, drugs, C. K. McKee, drugs, Chapman Furniture Company, Schrand & Miller, hardware, Jacob Petly, shoemaker, Cole & Welkins, meats, Everybodys' Meat Market, Frank S. Doyd, restaurant, A. Dahl & Son, bicycle, Holmes & McLaughlin, groceries, Aurora Land Company, A. B. Cowley & Company, F. Hoefer Jewelry Company, J. Peesey & Chapman, furniture, H. N. Bell, Rutherford & Shear, implements, S. B. Chapman, implement, Aurora Milling Company, E. C. Rhinbart.

#### PETERSON STORE

The Peterson store was established in 1879 by A. G. Peterson, a brother-in-law being associated with him for a short time only. The business started in a modest way, as most of them at so early a date did, but from the day of its

entrance in the field it has ever kept abreast of the advancing community interests. The floor space occupied by the store at the present time is about six times greater than was necessary at the beginning, and the volume of business now would have to be multiplied by a much larger figure. In the early day, when the country was sparsely settled and people lived long distances apart, customers came from all corners of the county to buy their supplies. Now, with the country thickly populated and the auto taking the place of the broneho, they still come from the same long distances to buy.

Three years after the establishment of the business Mr. and Mrs. Peterson were married. That was in 1882. They had planned a trip abroad, and the three brothers of Mr. Peterson became partners in the business, having charge of it during the absence of the founder and his wife. Fred and Gust retired some years later, and seven or eight years ago Einer retired to establish his own business. From that date until the retirement of Mrs. Peterson the first of the year the stock was all held by members of the family, Harry and Nell Peterson having acquired stock in the business.

Mr. Schwynn, who for seven years had been with the Wolbach store in Grand Island, bought the stock of Mrs. Peterson in January, 1918, and a little later became actively identified with the business.

#### BUSINESS WHICH GREW FROM SMALL BEGINNING IN '94 WINDS UP IN 1915

##### DAVIDSON STORE

Much favorable publicity was given J. R. Davidson by the press of the state in connection with the closing out of his \$40,000 Aurora department store, which event was completed in December 1915, with free lunch to about 1,000 friends and former customers. Several of the daily papers have carried good pictures of Mr. Davidson with stories of his remarkable career sent out by their local correspondent, Frank E. Edgerton. The following, taken from the Omaha Bee, is a concise and accurate statement of facts upon which The Republican is unable to improve:

"Mr. Davidson started in business in Aurora in 1894, just before the hot wind of that year came along to destroy the crops of this county. His stock of goods at that time was invoiced at \$140 and he was proprietor, janitor, delivery boy, bookkeeper for his store.

"From that small beginning in that year of famine, Mr. Davidson has advanced until, when he decided to close out, he had a department store employing thirty clerks and doing a business of \$90,000 a year. But he decided to quit and retire to his fruit ranch near this city. He sold his stock and not his business, and now he is through. In the 21 years of his life spent in business here his trade expanded until he counted as his customers many farmers from outside of this county.

"Mr. Davidson was born in Monona, Clayton county, Iowa, 59 years ago. His father was a Congregational minister, a graduate of Yale college and Yale divinity school. In 1878 Mr. Davidson came to this county and farmed for three years. He then went to Sherman county and took a homestead. On this homestead he established a store, freighting his goods across the country from



Kearney. Later the little town of Hazard was established close to his homestead and he moved his store to that place. He was compelled to sell out and quit business about 1892 by reason of poor health. But the lure of the store business was in his blood and he came to Aurora and bought out a stock of goods worth \$140. Other merchants quit when the hot winds came along, but Davidson stayed."

Aurora's business industries from 1905 to 1920 were: Peterson Brothers general store, Hub Department Store, J. R. Davidson & Company, Fair Store, Bargain Store, D. A. Johnson, general store; J. E. Dean, dry goods; C. K. McKee & Company, drugs; Woodard Drug Company, Magee Clothing Company, Chapman Furniture Company, Diamond Shoe Store, Olson Tailor Shop, V. Swanson, groceries; S. J. Johnson, groceries; W. P. Isaace, meats; Waddle Brothers, Deitz Lumber Company, Grosshans Lumber Company, Aurora Specialty Store, McKee & Hartquest, drugs; H. F. Bachen & Company, clothing; Aurora Mercantile Company, H. H. Donner, jewelry; Huffman & Sims, restaurant; Peterson Brothers & Company, Einer Peterson Store, Wilkins Drug Store, W. C. Willis, paint shop; Hedland, hardware; Anderson Company Jewelry Store, Stewart Shoe Company, H. L. Sampson, groceries; Sandin Anto Company, W. S. Shaneyfelt Lumber Company.

#### BUSINESS HOUSES IN 1920

The great growth of Aurora is evidenced by its increased roster of business institutions, late in 1920, which is appended for that purpose. Adams Candy Kitchen; American State Bank, failed in 1920; American Express Co. office; Anderson Livery & Taxi Co.; Aurora Cash Meat Market; Aurora Co-operative Creamery Co.; Aurora Elevator Co., elevator and mill; Aurora Exchange Store; Aurora Hardware Co.; faithful old Aurora House, hotel; Aurora Junk & Iron Co.; Aurora Printing Co. (Republican office); Aurora schools; high school, David Stone, east school and Robert Miller, west school; Aurora Sun office; Aurora Tire & Repair Co.; Bergson & McCarthy, real estate; Best & Williams, feed barn; Dr. G. E. Bigsby, office; Burlington freight and passenger depots and round house; Burlington Restaurant; Burr Publishing Co. (Hamilton County Register office); Cass Bros., real estate; Central Hotel; Chapin-Colglazier Construction Co.; Chapman Furniture Co.; City Municipal Plant; Dr. J. F. Cole, dental office; Commercial Club rooms; M. D. Crossett, jeweler; DeWaters & Howard, hardware; L. A. Enderle, shop; Farley Investment Co.; Farmers Truck & Tractor Co., Farmers Union Association Store; Fidelity National Bank; First National Bank; First Trust Co.; Grosshans Lumber Co.; Gunnarson & Call, office; Gunnarson Bros., implements; Hainer, Craft & Edgerton, law offices; Grand Union Tea Co. agency; O. F. Hartquest, drug store; Haworth & Sons, jewelers; Dr. I. W. Haughey, office; J. S. Hedgecock, dairy; Hockenbary & Miller, meat market; T. B. Hord Grain Co., elevator; The Hub, dry goods and department store; Dr. C. D. Husted; W. P. Isaac, meat market; J. A. Isaman & Co., abstract and insurance offices; Johnson Clothing Co.; Frank Johnson, miller; Joseph Johnson, contractor; E. J. Jones & Son, plumbing shop; Kenney Novelty Co., store; Frank LaBelle, florist; Dr. W. M. Lenser, chiropractor; C. C. Me-

Cray, jeweler and optometrist; Magee Clothing Co.; Dr. G. H. Marvel; Mazda Theatre; Milner & Ryan, oil station; B. A. Munson & Co., undertaking; Dr. L. G. Myers, dentist; J. C. Neilson, tailor shop; C. E. Neir, druggist; Joseph Neptune, contractor of state wide reputation; Newman Bros., dentists; Dr. H. V. Nothomb, veterinarian; Olympia Candy Kitchen; M. C. Otto, store; Pablo Parlor; Pence Cash Hardware Store; Peterson Bros. & Co., store; Einer Peterson Store; C. A. Peterson, battery station; F. E. Quinn, restaurant; Mrs. R. E. Ramgren, millinery; W. E. Reber, harness shop; Chas. Rutherford, drug store; Sandin Auto Co., garage; C. R. Seoville, poultry house; Wm. Seibler, blacksmith shop; H. E. Sims, garage; Sinclair Refining Co., oil office; Smith & Hare, law offices; M. F. Stanley, law office; Drs. E. A. and D. B. Steenburg; Swanson's Bakery & Cafe; Seander Swanson, store; Vic Swanson, store; S. Y. A. Garage; Thomas Pharmacy; Updike Grain Elevator; Dr. J. J. Waters, veterinarian; W. C. Wentz Co., offices, failed late in 1920; C. L. Whitney, law office; Walter C. Willis, store; Drs. D. S. & J. M. Woodard; Harle W. Wright & Co., store.

## CHAPTER VII

### OTHER TOWNS

ORVILLE CITY — HAMPTON — STOCKHAM — BROMFIELD-GILTNER — MARQUETTE —  
PHILLIPS—HORDVILLE—HAMILTON—OTHER TOWNS.

#### ORVILLE CITY

Orville City, the first county seat, was located by the county commissioners in 1870, and surveyed, platted and recorded as a town by them. The site lies on a beautiful plateau overlooking both forks of the Blue River, on the south half of the northeast quarter of Section 22, Township 9, Range 6, west. It was declared the county seat of Hamilton County May 3, 1870, by a vote of the people at the first election held in the county, and remained such until January 1, 1876, at which date the county seat was removed to Aurora by a majority vote in compliance with a general act of the legislature of Nebraska approved February, 1875.

The site was pre-empted by the commissioners and surveyed by John Harris. The first to locate there were T. H. and William Glover. T. H. Glover opened the first store, in the fall of 1872, with a stock of general merchandise. He was followed shortly after by William Glover, who inaugurated the second business enterprise of the town, that of a hotel and boarding house. The court-house was erected in May, 1872, which was the first building put up, and in November of the same year, the first frame house was built by T. H. Glover. In 1873, it was a thriving town containing three grocery and general merchandise stores, one drug store, hotel, blacksmith shop, real estate and law office and saloon. A school house was erected in 1873, in which Miss Nettie Hileman taught the first term of school in 1874. After the removal of the county seat to Aurora, the buildings were removed to Aurora and elsewhere, and the site of the sometime city, later the county poor-farm, on which the county established a poor-house in 1884 at a cost of about \$2,500.

#### COUNTY SEAT REMOVAL

Hamilton county was organized in the year 1870. At that time it was thought that all lands of any value were those which lay next to the Blue river, and that the table lands of the central and northern part of Hamilton county were entirely valueless as agricultural lands. In fact so strong was this belief at the time of which we write that settlers bought B. & M. lands located on the Blue from five to six dollars per acre, while the whole territory around Aurora and extending to the Platte, or the north, was open to homestead and pre-emption

and left untaken because supposed to be valueless. Hence it was not strange that when the county seat was located that it should have been located near the south line of the county. But two or three years changed the opinion of everybody. The bleak uplands of the '70s became cultivated farms in '73, and it was apparent to all that the county seat must be removed to some point nearer to the center of the county. Accordingly in the year of 1873, a petition to remove the county seat was filed. The question submitted to the committee was "Shall the county seat be removed?" Those in favor voting "For removal of county seat," those opposed "Against removal of county seat."

The friends of Aurora, which was platted during the year 1872, either by mistake or design, instead of having tickets printed as per call, that is "For removal of county seat," printed and voted a ticket as follows: "For county seat, Aurora," and after a canvass of the vote, it was found that Aurora had received two-thirds of the votes cast. The committee, however, refused to move. A writ of mandamus was issued against them and the matter taken to the supreme court.

The following is the opinion rendered by Maxwell: . . . The testimony shows that while two-thirds of the votes cast on the question of county seat were cast for Aurora, yet a larger number voted only "For or against removal." It is certainly apparent from the evidence also, that the matter was not fully understood by the people of the county, and that there was no fair submission of the question.—3rd Neb. Rep.—People ex. rel. v. Hamilton County.

Hence the seat of government still remained at Orville City. In the fall of '74 the question was again submitted with the following results: Total number of votes cast 599, number necessary for choice 399½, Aurora received 399, Hamilton received 147, Orville received 53. Aurora having failed to obtain the two-thirds vote required by law, the committee refused to move. At this point Aurora very imprudently organized a company of some 150 of her citizens and friends and went to Orville City, and by violence and force took possession of the county court house and loaded up the records and safes and brought them to Aurora. A writ of mandamus compelled them to be taken back to the county seat the following spring, and a third election was called May 20th, 1875, which resulted as follows: Whole number of votes cast 765, number necessary for choice 510, Aurora 394, Hamilton 361, Orville 5, W. E. 6-10-6 3, Sec. 6-12-5 1, blank 1. There still being no choice, another election was held on June 28th, which resulted as follows: Total number of votes cast 841, number necessary to choice 561, Hamilton 434, Aurora 404, Orville 3. Hamilton for the first time had received a majority and considering the victory was as good as in her grasp failed to put forth the required exertion, and when the fifth election was called, October 12th, 1875, only a majority vote was required to elect.

The following is the result of the election: Aurora 481, Hamilton 400. Aurora's majority 81.

#### COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The first attempt to organize an agricultural society in Hamilton county was in the fall of 1871, in the store of David Stone at Aurora. Preliminary steps were taken at this time, but the organization was effected at Orville City.

July 3, 1872. Joseph Glover was elected president, James Rollo, vice-president; Geo. F. Dickson, secretary, E. J. Lewis, assistant secretary; John Laurie, treasurer.

The first fair was held in Oct. 1872 on the public square of Orville City. The court house was used as a floral hall, and for the display of the different articles. Among some of the attractions at the first meeting was a bare-back equestrian race in which the young ladies of the county participated, and Miss Nettie Henderson won the race and premium.

An annual fair has been held since the organization of the society, but no grounds were laid out until 1874. During this year the present fair grounds comprising a tract of forty acres, southwest of the city, was purchased. A good half mile track was made. The buildings comprise sheds for stock, a substantial floral hall, and a large roomy building for mercantile display.

The fair of 1885 was the greatest success ever attained in the county, and was an exhibit worthy of any county in the state.

An effort will be made this year to outdo even that, and a liberal premium list has been arranged, which is now in the hands of the printer.

The association is managed with ability and good judgment.

The officers at present are: president, Frank Stevens; secretary, Harvey Cole; treasurer, R. W. Graybill.

## HAMPTON

Hampton was surveyed and platted in October, 1879, about the time the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was completed to that point.

Mr. Joshua Cox had purchased four hundred and forty acres of land here in the spring of 1879, and it was on this land the town was located. During the next year he purchased six hundred acres more, making a solid body of about one thousand acres. His brother, James M. Cox, also purchased one thousand acres adjoining that of Joshua. Building began immediately after the platting of the town, Ernest Leyer erecting the first store building, in which he opened the first general stock of goods. C. R. Young soon after built the first dwelling house. These were soon followed by the grocery store of C. R. Young, the general store of A. T. Vich & Company, the grain storehouse of F. Eberhardt, the hardware store of A. G. Evans, drug store of J. F. Morse and the lumber yard and office of D. C. Bell.

In 1880 G. P. Chessman put up a grain elevator, the first in the town. Among those who were prominently identified with the building up of the village were W. J. Williamson, Holden & Lane, H. H. Lohman, Frank Chambers, T. J. Fiegenbaum, A. G. Evans, G. P. Chessman, R. A. Ingalls, Wellman & Son, and the Cox brothers, Joshua, James M. and Levi. In 1882 the first hotel was built by James M. Fodge and the same year a bank was opened by Cox Brothers.

A school house was built in 1881, in which the first term of school was taught (the same season) by J. H. Sauls, one of the oldest settlers in this vicinity and the representative of the county in the constitutional convention of 1875. An excellent school building, adapted to the needs of a graded school, was erected in 1885. Hampton was incorporated as a village January 10, 1883, with E. D. Foster, S. W. Holden, D. M. Zook, Levi Cox and M. E. Gerdes as trustees.

This has always been a good business point, as will be seen from the following statement of early railroad business:

In 1887 there were shipped from Hampton Station a total of 1,065 cars of grain, and in 1888, 700 cars; in 1889 there were shipped 497 cars of corn, 93 of oats, 13 of barley, 40 of flax, 16 of ground feed, 1 of flour, 120 of cattle, 75 of hogs and 2 of sheep, a total of 857 cars, the freight receipts of the office amounting to \$16,439.58.

Among the leading business houses of the village in 1890 were: Joshua and James M. Cox, live-stock feeders and shippers; Houghton & Son, bankers; George E. Lane, general store; W. J. Williamson, general store; Lohman & Erlenborn, general store; B. F. Buckley, hardware; G. L. Wagner, hardware; Bailey & Klumb, agricultural implements; T. J. Fiegenbaum, drugs; F. Chambers & Company, drugs; Eskeldsen & Kaufman, lumber; G. P. Chessman, grain; F. G. Chessman, grain; Cannon & Morrissey, Grain; Farmers' Alliance Business Association, grain; Hampton Roller Mills, and others.

The village had a population in 1889-90 of about six hundred, the following were the officers and trustees:

D. S. Woodard, chairman; J. M. Cox, Chris. Newman, T. J. Fiegenbaum, D. M. Zook; W. C. Bailey, clerk; George E. Lane, treasurer.

The postoffice was removed from Williamsport to this place in 1879. E. L. Ingalls, the postmaster in 1889, reported the business of the office for that year as \$1,039.85.

During these years there were also two houses of worship at this place. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1883 with the following members: R. A. Wellman, Dora Wellman, Eunice Young, Martha A. Maguire, Mary C. Maguire, John Douglass, Mariah Douglass, J. H. Sauls, Mary Tyler, and Rev. W. H. Babeock as pastor. The pastorate has been successively held by Rev. H. C. Wood in 1884, who succeeded Rev. Babeock, Rev. D. S. Davis (1885), Rev. G. A. Hobson (1886), Rev. J. H. Carmichael (1886), Rev. L. H. Archard (1887), D. T. Wilson (1888) and Rev. E. L. Wells, who was assigned to this charge at the beginning of the conference year, October 20, 1889, the church having a membership of twenty members.

A church building was erected in 1883 at a cost of \$1,500.

The Christian Church was organized here in 1885, and a church, 32x60 feet, was built the same year, and dedicated June 15, 1885. The following were the original members: A. G. Evans, William Mapes, T. B. Johnson, James Moore, Adam Mokler, G. C. Boyce, David Patrick, Nelson Kutch, and Rev. A. W. Harney, pastor. Rev. Harney remained with the church until January 1, 1890, and was succeeded by Rev. W. D. Curtis. The church was highly prosperous and in 1890 had a membership of about forty.

The elders were T. B. Johnson, William Mapes and E. C. Roggy, and the deacons, S. E. Chambers, P. H. Wind and H. Bundegard. A flourishing Sunday school was conducted, with E. C. Roggy as superintendent.

Star Lodge of the I. O. O. F. was organized here November 7, 1883, with the following officers and charter members: R. A. Wellman, N. G.; J. H. Sauls, V. G.; Daniel Westenhaver, treasurer; A. R. Allen, secretary; J. J. Klumb, W.; J. H. Lincoln, C.; G. T. Chapman, O. W.; G. W. Bonner, E. B. Hoyt, A. H. Chapman, A. Linsley, John Hinshaw. In a few years the membership grew to twenty.



MAIN STREET, HAMPTON



HAMPTON DEPOT BUILT IN 1879





## HAMPTON IN 1920

The history of Hampton banks and various other activities has been touched upon here and there throughout the foregoing narrative. In 1920 its enterprises, a roster of which indicates the scope of its development, were, Farmers Produce Association, Farmers State Bank, First National Bank, Farmers Cream Station, Hampton Auto Company, Hampton Elevator Co., Hord Grain Co., Maleck Brothers, meat market; Mueller & Ott, store; S. B. Nichols Produce Co., Peterson Lumber Co., Standard Oil Co. station, Dr. Otto Troester, Wall Bros. Auto Co., garage.

## HAMPTON'S PAST INDUSTRIES

For many years Will J. Williamson ran the main store in Hampton and vicinity. The Hampton Star was flourishing in 1898; The Racket Store, P. L. Watkins and Geo. E. Lane, Grocery, Dr. D. S. Woodard & Sons, Drug Store; C. H. Fulhaver, drugs; Newman & Cox, hardware store, and C. Mansfield, furniture store, were business landmarks of twenty years ago in Hampton. Henricksen and Peterson, hardware; W. S. Loreson, grocery store; C. Newman, hardware; Budler & Kissinger, auto shop, were landmarks of the next following decade. The 1920 roster shows that these have practically all disappeared and Hampton has a new business regime entirely.

## STOCKHAM

Stockham is a lively village on the line of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, on Section 25, Township 9, Range 6. It was surveyed and platted in 1887 by the Pioneer Town Site Company. Among the first business enterprises were the Bank of Stockham, I. D. Evans, cashier; P. Moore & Son, druggists; A. D. Atwood, livery; J. W. Gray, livery; C. F. Tatro, restaurant; Joseph Stockham Hotel. The above named parties erected buildings about the same time.

The town is located in the vicinity of the first settlement made in the county, and is in the remarkably fertile valley of the Blue River. The farmers being "well-to-do," and many of them even wealthy, the town has had an encouraging amount of business, and has grown rapidly. In September, 1888, it was incorporated as a village, with the following board of trustees: F. J. Sharp, Joseph Stockham, W. C. Flickinger, Walter Scott, Henry Reisel.

All branches of business were represented in the village, the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad affording facilities for the shipment of goods and products, and the Western Union Telegraph Company affording telegraphic communication. The Stockham Reporter, a bright, newsy republican paper, was established here in August, 1888, by F. P. Corrick. It was edited in 1890 by J. S. Lounsbury.

A handsome two-story frame school-house 24x60 feet was erected in 1888. The school was in a flourishing condition, and was presided over by E. C. Grubbe, as principal, with Miss Minnie Rowe as assistant. In 1890 it became a graded school. At this time three churches were represented, the German Lutheran.

Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal. The first named erected the first church building in 1887 and Rev. G. Grobe was one of the first pastors.

The Presbyterians built a church in 1889, and Rev. John Branch ministered to their spiritual welfare.

#### STOCKHAM IN 1920

Stockham shows a new set of business institutions by this modern date. C. & N. W. depot, Farmers Elevator Co., Grosshans Grain & Lumber Co., Greiss & Co., store; M. G. Fuchrer, garage; P. J. Maupin, store; J. G. Timmermier, drug store; Stockham Hardware Co., Stockham State Bank, Dr. J. M. Welch, office; Yost Lumber Co.

#### BROMFIELD-GILTNER

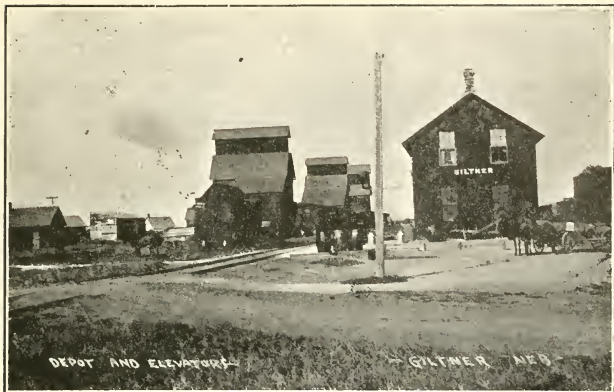
Bromfield was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1886 by the Lincoln Land Company. It is located on Section 6, Township 9, Range 7, on the branch of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company running from Aurora to Hastings. The first building was erected by Joe Brown soon after the town was platted. This was followed the same season by the business buildings of W. H. Leniberger, L. P. Wheeler, G. H. Myers, Alfred Carriker, F. C. Mather, M. W. Trobee, C. N. Dietz, National Lumber Company, G. S. Cole & Company and S. D. Chapman, and the residences of C. E. Brown, M. D., J. A. Foster and Frank Wright. The town had a good steady growth, and by 1890 had a population of between three and four hundred.

It was incorporated as a village December 11, 1888, with the following board of trustees: C. E. Brown, L. P. Wheeler, W. H. Leniberger, John McCarthy and Charles Allen.

The postoffice was removed from Lerton to this place in 1887, A. V. B. Peck having held down the postmaster's chair since the establishment of the office here.

The town and vicinity has had a remarkable history in its chapter of crimes, accidents and casualties. The first of these was in the fall of 1886, when a serious cutting affray occurred, by which one Fred Gossner very nearly lost his life. Two years later Mrs. John Schultheis was shot and instantly killed by S. D. Pierce, a neighbor. The shooting was entirely accidental, Pierce having been requested by Mrs. Schultheis to shoot a skunk which had taken refuge under the corn crib. Mr. Pierce fired under the crib intending to kill or dislodge the animal. Upon entering the house shortly after, he discovered Mrs. Schultheis lying on the floor, dead, with a bullet hole in her forehead. Investigation revealed the fact that the ball had glanced, passing through the window, and striking the woman with the result above stated.

The same season another sad accident occurred here by which Dr. T. L. Myers, a prominent citizen and one of the leading physicians of Aurora, lost his life. The doctor had been spending the day in Bromfield with his son, G. H. Myers, and was starting to return to Aurora by the freight train, which left at six p. m. As he stepped from the platform of the depot to the step of the way ear, the train being in motion, he lost his balance and fell under the ear, the wheels of which passed over his body, killing him almost instantly. This accident cast a



DEPOT AND ELEVATORS, GILTNER



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF GILTNER



gloom over the community, from which they had hardly recovered when they were again shocked by another fatal accident. This was the case of Dell Henry, who in company with another young man, was riding out from Bromfield in a road cart. They had a shot gun with them, which Henry was holding. While he was attempting to light his pipe, he permitted the gun to slip from his grasp, and it dropped through the slats of which the bottom of the cart was made. The hammer striking on a slat exploded the cartridge, the charge entering the side of his head and face, mangling him terribly and killing him at once. The same year Mary O'Brien, a girl living in the family of Mrs. Bush, near Bromfield, committed suicide by hanging.

Hardly had the words been pronounced which sentenced Henry Thornhill to be hanged by the neck until dead, when the entire country was thrilled by the news of the double tragedy occurring in the village on Saturday, March 15, 1890. Shortly after 2 o'clock p. m. on that day Amos E. Staton, a farmer living a short distance south of the village, came into the town on foot and proceeded at once to the rear door of Charles Harrod's meat market, which he entered. W. W. Lewis, a highly respected citizen of the town, was the only occupant of the shop at the time, and was seated near the front window reading a newspaper. A few seconds after Staton entered a pistol shot was heard, and Mr. Lewis was seen running from the rear door of the building, screaming and pressing his hand to his breast, and closely pursued by Staton, who had a revolver in his hand. A few rods from the shop door Staton again fired, the ball striking the flying man in the region of the kidneys, killing him almost instantly. It was afterward ascertained that the shot fired in the shop had taken effect in the center of the breast. Staton at once went to the street and started south, but was immediately arrested and placed in the village jail or "lockup."

Great excitement prevailed, and within a few minutes a large crowd had assembled on the street. Less than an hour after the shooting a party of masked men were seen to emerge from an implement warehouse and march toward the jail, while a piece of new half-inch rope dangled ominously from their hands. Proceeding to the "lockup," the door was forced open, the rope properly knotted around Staton's neck, and he was led to an adjacent livery barn, where the rope was passed across a beam and the murderer of W. W. Lewis was quickly sent to his account. The masked men remained but a few minutes after accomplishing their work, then proceeded to the place from where they had come and disappeared. Meantime—the news of the shooting having been promptly telegraphed to the sheriff—Deputy Sheriff Whitesides, County Attorney Whitmore, City Marshal George Barschlin, Coroner Elarton, and others had boarded the train for Bromfield. The train from the east was twenty minutes late, hence the train for Bromfield did not leave Aurora until about 3:30 p. m., reaching Bromfield at 4 o'clock. As soon as informed of the circumstances detailed above, the officers proceeded to the livery barn, where they found Staton hanging by the neck. He was immediately taken down and efforts made to resuscitate him, but they were ineffectual. The coroner at once began his investigations and an inquest was first held upon the body of Mr. Lewis. The jury rendered a verdict that he had come to his death at the hands of Amos E. Staton, in accordance with the foregoing facts.

On Sunday, March 16, a jury was impaneled to hold an inquest upon the

body of Staton. After an investigation lasting the greater part of three days, the jury rendered a verdict of death by hanging at the hands of parties unknown.

### GILTNER

The old town of Bromfield, advanced into Huntington post office and into Giltner station, by which name it is now known. Some twenty years ago its business institutions were Mather's Pioneer store; Canipbell & Wyekoff, successors to the H. D. Wait stock of merchandise; S. D. Wait, shoes; Geo. Fowler & Co., drug store; C. N. Deitz Lumber Co.; John Oliver, meats; C. D. Chapman; Rodeman & Son, general store; and within the next decade some of these dropped out and Mathews the Price Killer stock, John Oliver, and Poitexan Hardware stock took prominence. In 1920 the business roster of Giltner showed Carlson & Haymart Auto Co.; Dr. A. A. Brown; Citizens Bank of Giltner; Farmers Co-operative Assn., store; Farmers Elevator; Chas. Colton, novelty store; Edd Cutts, postmaster; Chas. Browne, garage; Robt. Casler, grocery; C. D. Chapman, hardware; H. C. Falmlen, store; Fry Bros., garage; Giltner Drug Co.; Giltner Gazette; Giltner Light Plant; Giltner Lumber Co.; Giltner Produce Co.; Giltner State Bank; Wm. Harris, meat market; Joe Heganbart, hardware; Highland Grain Co.; Hynes Elevator Co.; J. A. Marvel, store; Dr. P. O. Marvel; Sandin Auto Co., garage; Paul M. Shafer, shop; Standard Oil Co.; Dr. C. H. Swanson, Carl Wagner, harness shop; Dr. J. S. Wainwright, E. F. Wilson, store; L. A. Wilson, restaurant, hotel.

### MARQUETTE

In the spring of 1880 the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad extended its line of road from Aurora to Central City. At the time of the completion of the road to the latter place there was a post-office located on the east half of the northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 12, Range 6, on the section line between Sections 16 and 21, a few rods west of the line of the railroad, and know as "Avon," kept by Mrs. Nancy Carnahan.

The company being desirous of locating a station as near the post-office as possible, but being unable to secure any lands for that purpose for the first six months after the completion of the road, trains were stopped merely to throw off and receive mail.

A "station" was then opened, which for a year consisted of a hand-car house, located on the section line between Sections 16 and 21, with O. H. Wirsig as agent. He was soon after appointed postmaster. Early in 1882 the Lincoln Land Company secured from J. W. Marquis 100 acres of land on the southwest quarter of Section 16, Township 12, Range 6, and surveyed and platted the town of Marquette.

The railroad company moved an old depot building from Dorchester to this place, which remained for many years as an early land mark of the village.



CITIZENS BANK BUILDING OF GILTNER



# BANK OF BROMFIELD

STATE BANK OF GILTNER



EARLY VIEW OF GILTNER





## BUSINESS AND GENERAL INSTITUTIONS OF MARQUETTE

By Mrs. D. E. Seiver

The first person to buy a lot in the new town was Geo. Shears. He built a little shack in the middle of his lot, lived here with his family and started the first grocery store; stock of goods worth about \$10.00.

First dwelling, built by James Ruby, was a one-story structure, since made into a two-story building and owned and occupied by C. O. Larsen.

About the same time Elias Farr and O. T. Greer built homes, Mr. Farr east of James Ruby, and this is now the home of Wm. Herbig. O. T. Greer, west of J. Ruby, which is the home of Mrs. M. Dixon.

## GENERAL MERCHANDISE

1882, Fairchild and Deal were first general merchants; located on the south side, south of where the Farmers' State Bank now stands. The original Fairchild & Deal structure is incorporated in the building now owned and occupied by C. A. Wilson. F. & D. sold in 1894 to C. A. Wilson and Peter Jacobsen. Jacobsen sold to John Ostblum, and he sold to C. A. Wilson, who still runs the business.

John Waddell located on north side where Farmers' State Bank now stands. He had a grocery store in front and lived in the back. Building was burned, and replaced with brick structure.

Lind and Wells with general merchandise located east of Waddell. Wells sold to Elias Farr, who started Bank of Marquette in the rear part of building. Mr. Farr sold his stock of goods to Lind who moved to Central City.

A Mr. Persons came with general merchandise; sold to Mr. H. D. Hall and S. P. Boyd in 1892. The store was destroyed by fire. A substantial brick building was erected. R. W. Boyd & Co., was the firm until 1906, when C. Buerstette bought the business. After running four years he sold to A. B. Cowley & Co., who closed out in 1916. Building now used for meat market by Magnus Hemingsen.

In 1903 R. W. Boyd put in stock of groceries in building now used by Peter Djernes, a plumber. Mr. Boyd sold to James Nickles in 1906. The place changed hands several times and was bought in 1910 by C. A. Stuart, who moved to the north side of the street, into a new brick building of his own. He carries a general merchandise stock, on the site of J. D. Hickman's drug store.

## DRUG STORE

R. Hughes started first drug store in 1882. Store situated west of C. A. Wilson's store. Sold to James J. Luff in 1895. Original wooden building replaced by brick.

J. D. Hickman started drug store about the same time, located across street from R. Hughes.

In 1882 George Thorp brought in a stock of hardware, and sold to C. T. Greer & Sons, who later bought the Van Buskirk implement store on the lots now occupied by the Opera House. Greer sold to Berryman & Patterson, who two years later sold to H. C. Deal.

In 1884 Fred Larsen and James Peterson started with blacksmith shop and implements; sold to C. O. Larsen in 1905 or 1906.

In 1896 Sanderson & Jones carried implements and did blacksmithing. Sold implements to Olsen Bros., who later sold to Farmers' Union store in 1920;

on site of Aurora Lumber Co. yard. Olsen Bros. then bought the C. O. Larsen implement business.

#### FURNITURE STORE

First furniture store opened in 1882 by Rollo Goethe, who sold in 1883 to Andrew Johnston. Johnston & Greer put in hardware in 1886. Johnston sold his interest in 1888 to H. D. Hall. In 1894, Hall sold his interest and Greer ran the business until the spring of 1901 when he sold to Isaman & Neptune. They sold in 1903 to Will Long. Austin Bros., bought out Mr. Long and erected a brick building in 1906; used the first floor for his stock of furniture and hardware; the upper part is Fraternal Hall and Opera House.

Austin Bros. sold in 1908 to Simpson & Buerstette. They sold in 1912 to Carl Krogh. In 1916 Krogh moved into the new brick building west of First National Bank. Sold to Mercantile Company in 1919. The Mercantile Company carries a large stock of furniture, hardware and groceries.

#### ELEVATORS

Mr. Sweeney, first grain buyer, built a shovel house near railroad track, east of where First National Bank now stands.

First elevator, Morrissy Bros. They sold in 1892 to W. A. Tarbell. Tarbell sold to T. B. Hord in 1894 or 1895.

Shovel house was sold to Mr. Wells and H. Hiscock.

Next elevator was built by Mr. Wells. It was not substantial and bursted. It was rebuilt by Mr. Ferguson, on the ground where Hord's elevator now stands. Ferguson sold to Mr. Hord.

Farmers' elevators built in 1909, situated south of Hord's.

#### BLACKSMITH

Mr. Pangburn started first blacksmith shop in 1882; sold in 1883 to Arnold and Snigs. They sold in 1884 to Fred Larsen. See Larsen & Petersen, implements.

Lonie Nielsen operates the present blacksmith shop south of post-office.

#### HOTEL

First hotel erected in fall of 1882 by Lou Bonner on north side of street and moved in 1915 to the east side of block, to make room for the large brick building owned by First National Bank. Jesse Weaver, proprietor.

S. M. McCain had restaurant and confectionery in Boyd & Sons old building on north side of street; sold to C. Stalnaker in 1897. He sold to J. Gorin. Building was destroyed by fire in 1910. Henry Larsen erected a new building of brick and started a restaurant; there have been changes since and Mrs. M. Stalnaker has had charge for four or five years.

#### MEAT MARKET

F. D. Reynolds opened first meat market in 1884. Later D. W. Brunk had the market and sold to S. Grafe in 1888. In 1896 G. A. Dorsey took the meat market and ran it for several years. Has changed hands several times since and now M. Hemingsen is proprietor. The building is on the site of Lind and Wells' old store.

#### HARNESS SHOP

L. A. Chatfield had the first harness shop in 1884. Sold in early '90s to U. Fink. He sold to A. Eichelberger in 1892. Hans Jensen bought business

in 1904. Building burned in 1910, replaced with brick and H. Jensen is still the owner. Site of Eichelberger building.

In 1884 or '85 J. W. Nicholson started first livery barn. Later it was carried on by S. Stalmaker and after his death it was run by his son, C. Stalmaker.

#### GARAGE

Sandin Auto Co., was first in 1909. Sold to Ekburg Brothers in 1916. Located south of postoffice.

Moving pictures were started years ago by W. A. Young; business was discontinued and started again in 1920 by A. Nelsen. Located under Opera House.

Independent Telephone incorporated in 1904.

Waterworks and light plant in 1912.

#### FIRST CHURCHES

The Christian and Presbyterian churches organized in 1882.

The Christian has been moved away. The Presbyterian was sold to the Methodists in 1899.

The United Brethren came to Marquette in 1882.

#### NEWSPAPERS

There have been several, but they did not live long enough to deserve a name. Marquette Independent started 1884. Dr. T. W. Line, publisher and editor; it lived three years and papers which give early history of Marquette have been given to Historical Society at Lincoln.

The A. B. C. Monthly, published by A. B. Cowley, lived for a year or two.

#### BANKS

Bank of Marquette started by Elias Farr in 1881 or 1882 changed to Farley's Bank in early '90s; was located in building now occupied by post-office; became First National in 1916 and moved into its handsome brick building, erected 1915, on site of old hotel.

Farmers State organized in 1913.

#### SCHOOL

First school house was built in 1884, was a two-room structure and was replaced by a fine modern brick building in 1913.

First teachers were Miss Lulu Moor, principal, Minnie Fenton, primary.

At present Fred Schmoekle is superintendent. It is a twelve grade school.

Town was incorporated in 1889. First town board: M. E. Farr, H. D. Hall, R. Cox, S. P. Boyd and Dr. T. H. Line, mayor.

Present town officers: H. C. Orbin, mayor; M. E. Isaacsen, Ed Hilligas, C. A. Stewart, Peter Larsen, Jr.

Pioneers now living here: Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Greer, 1883; D. W. Long, 1883; Benjamin Long, 1883; Mrs. Anna Larsen, 1884; Mr. Peter Larsen, 1884; Mrs. Fred Larsen, 1884.

In 1906 Austin Bros. and others built the Austin block, now used for movies and Opera House; on site of original hardware and implement store.

In 1906 I. O. O. F. remodeled the old white hall, situated on first lot sold in Marquette, the ground floor of which is now used for a dwelling and office by Dr. Kelley, and the upper story by I. O. O. F. and Rebekahs.

In 1906 Methodist Episcopal and United Brethren churches were remodeled.

In 1917 United Brethren sold their old edifice and erected a fine church building.

In 1917 Danish people bought United Brethren church, moved building to site of Christian church, used for social functions.

#### CARPET WEAVING

One of the earliest institutions was that of carpet weaving. Started in 1883 by D. W. Long, and still carried on by him in his home in the north part of town.

First barber shop in 1883 by D. W. Long in place where I. O. O. F. building now stands. Business sold to W. A. Young in 1891, who carried it on until building was burned in 1910. Mr. Rasmussen, the present barber, has an up-to-date shop on site of old Farley Bank building.

In original town of Marquette the residences were mostly north and west of the town but in the last fifteen or twenty years most of the building has been across the railroad track, where we have a number of fine modern residences.

#### FRATERNAL ORDERS

1904: I. O. O. F.—Officers: Geo. Rollen, Noble Grand; Geo. Lewis, Vice-Grand; T. W. Seiver, Recording Secretary; H. O. King, Chaplain; Peter Petersen, Conductor; D. W. Long, Warden.

1906: Rebekahs—Mrs. Etta Stalnaker, Noble Grand; Mrs. Elen Lewis, Vice Noble Grand; Mrs. Tom Ferrell, Secretary; Mrs. J. Weaver, Treasurer; Mrs. M. Larsen, Chaplain.

About 1897: Modern Woodmen of America—J. Weaver, Counsel; John Esacon, Advisor; L. Ferrell, Banker; Eric Ekberg, Clerk.

1899: Royal Neighbors—Mrs. Weaver, Oracle; Mrs. Dixon, Past Oracle; Mrs. Seanlon, Vice Oracle; Mrs. Clara Wilson, Chancellor; Mrs. Tunall, Recorder; Mrs. E. Reynor, Receiver; Mrs. Pearl Tunall, Inside Sentinel; Mrs. Alta Hiatt, Outside Sentinel; Mrs. Oliver, Manager.

1884: A. O. U. W.—Hold no meetings; Mr. Walter Colby, Financial Secretary.

Degree of Honor—Mrs. Frank Young, Chief of Honor; Mrs. Alex. Power, Financial Secretary, Recorder and Secretary.

In 1920, leading business institutions were Pete Djernes, Ekbert Auto Co., Farmers Elevator Co., M. Hemingsen, meat market, Hord Grain Co., Jacobsen Lumber Co., J. J. Luff, drug store; Marquette Mercantile Co., Marquette Community Club; G. F. Null, store; Olsen Bros., implements; Chas. Schertz, garage; restaurant, C. A. Stewart, store; C. A. Wilson, store.

#### PHILLIPS

By GEO. E. HORN

Phillips came about as a result of the railroad passing through the county. It was laid out by Lincoln Townsite Co.

Named after one of the Burlington Railroad Company's leading officials on the Lincoln division.

Meyers and Sons drug store was the first business house.

J. J. Miller on the north side of town, as it stands at present.

Burke & Dingman hardware store, spring of 1884.

The first residents, transient carpenters, whose names are unknown to any of the present residents of this section. A number of early houses were constructed by Reiter and Dristy. Mr. Reiter is still a resident of the village. At the time he did the work he resided on a farm one half mile northwest of the village limits.

The M. K. Grass early place of business is now occupied by general merchandise stock of goods owned and operated by W. R. Wadkins. Fairchilds Bros. building lost in fire some 10 years ago has never been replaced. Emerson Bros. building sold and moved to country. Garage building on its site built by Geo. E. Horn in 1917, sold to Fast and Stinette in August, 1920. This building was originally constructed to accommodate the Ford agency in the town, and is still used for that purpose.

The first lumber yard was started by Ed. Moore. The first was S. W. Little and Son, and the second was Ed Moore.

A blacksmith shop was first started by a party whose name cannot be recalled by any of the present residents of this section. However it was owned and operated by the following named parties in later years: (I would not vouch for the order of succession) George Peterman, J. Monroe, Ben Web, Louis Canada, Wm. Hilpert, Lemuel Hulbert, Wm. Casteel, J. Baar, and the present owners are Rasmussen and Jensen.

First hotel was started by party whose name cannot be recalled by any of the present residents of the town. It was swept away by the great storm of the summer of 1884 and the owner never rebuilt. It was located on the present site of the M. E. church in the village.

#### BANKS

The first Bank—the Bank of Phillips—was chartered in 1885 under the ownership and management of Baker and Wenn. It later became the property of Baker and Burk. William Glover, I believe, was the next owner, with Harry Peard as Cashier. It then became the property of W. I. Farley of Aurora, he being succeeded by a number of farmers who became stockholders. Carl Carlson was the Cashier and also a stockholder. When Mr. Carlson retired he was succeeded by E. C. Huxtable as Cashier. Mr. Huxtable is still on the job.

First residents of village now living in the town are R. E. Dingman and wife: Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Peterson.

R. E. Dingman broke the cornstalks in the field that became the town site. He also owned and operated the first dray line, hauling most of the lumber from Grand Island and Aurora, which went into the first houses. There was considerable building done before the railroad was completed.

The town was incorporated in the year 1886. It became necessary to include a tract of land lying northwest of the village where a Mr. Henderson was operating a brick yard in order to complete the required number of names to permit an incorporation.

The first town officer was N. F. Lane, Mayor. Mr. Lane was very public spirited, and his interest in the village brought about quite a lot of improvements in different ways.

The present board and officers are W. T. Dearing, Mayor, Alfred Rasmussen, Gus Kutchan, George W. Fast, and E. C. Arnett.

Phillips has one of the finest consolidated School buildings in the state.

The first school here was started in 1886 by the organization of district No. 95.

The first hotel to become a regular business which remained for a definite period of time was built and operated by N. F. Lane.

The first implement business was started by J. Van Boskirk.

The first and only furniture store was owned and operated by William Eckerson. The building was destroyed by the fire which swept the entire east side of Main street some ten years ago.

The first Millinery store was started by Miss Belle McCutcheon, the daughter of R. E. McCutcheon, an old soldier, who spent quite a period of time in one of the southern prisons during the Civil war; a man who was very highly regarded in this section of the country. He was really the father of the Decoration Day exercises in this section of the country, a custom which has grown in interest, and become the most splendid occasion that is celebrated in this section of the country. Miss McCutcheon married William Willman some few years after she started her millinery business, and has since resided on a farm six miles southwest of Phillips. She is the mother of three children, two daughters and one son. They are a very highly respected family and prominent in all matters appertaining to the betterment of society.

The first Livery barn was started by N. F. Lane. It was burned through an accidental fire some years later.

The first garage was started by Chas. Bondegard. The business continued for a few years. Next garage was started by Kutchkan & Detamore. The next by Geo. E. Horn, being succeeded by Fast and Stinnette.

Hamilton County Telephone Company brought the first telephone service, it being established in 1901.

Electric Light and Power service came with the extension of the lines of the Central Power Co. of Grand Island, service being installed in 1919.

#### LODGES

Masonic—The order that is maintained at Phillips, lodge No. 62, was given its charter June 20, 1876. The members of the order met for a number of years at a Lodge Hall in St. Joe, a little inland town that was located three miles south of Phillips. When the railroad came to the village of St. Joe, was abandoned and the lodge was taken to Phillips; the information I have placed the date as 1884. The present Master is Earl Arnold. The first Master was —— Ennis.

Eastern Star—This society was given its charter on May 18th, 1889. The lodge has had considerable growth. Its present worthy Matron is Mrs. William Thompson.

Modern Woodmen of America—Was Given its charter on May 18, 1889. It at one time was one of the strongest organizations in towns the size of Phillips in the state. The increase in rates caused many members to drop out of the order. Its present head is Millard Hunt.

Royal Neighbors—Were given their charter on Oct. 26, 1906. Has had quite a healthy growth in recent years. Its present head is Mrs. A. S. Gilbert.

Royal Highlanders—Were given their charter in December, 1896. The lodge had a healthy growth for a period of years and is still running with a good sized membership.

Degree of Honor—Chartered the 25th day of February, 1896. The lodge flourished for a number of years. The raise in the rates of the society seemed to have an effect that caused a decline in interest. The order is still maintained, but the membership has fallen quite low. Valley P. Thomas is Chief of Honor.

In 1920 the business interests at Phillips were Arnett Bros., hardware; Farmers Elevator; Farmers Lumber Co.; George Horn, garage; Gus Huld, drug store; Jensen & Rasmussen, blacksmith shop; Kutschkan & Detamore, garage; Dr. H. W. Parchen, office; Fred Schwartz, store; D. Sorenson, meat market; W. R. Wadkins, store.

## HORDVILLE

The town of Hordville was settled in 1907. Sam Biggs, depot agent, is the oldest resident of the town and is the only one who is still running the same business. The land where the town was laid out was owned by the Swedish Lutheran Church, thirty acres, John Litzenberg, twenty acres, and John Larson, twenty acres. The town was laid out by the Townside Company of Stromsburg, in which Wilson Brothers and McCune of Stromsburg were the leading spirits.

The town of Hordville was named for T. B. Hord, and the first building in the town was built by Chester Levick. The next few houses were built by A. Churchhill, C. V. Nelson, Mrs. Liza Lindahl and Mrs. Emma Bengston. The first store was started by Cyrus Ramey, who ran it for about four years, when he sold it to David Olson. Mr. Ramey went to Montana, and Mr. Olson later sold the store to John Osbloom. At present it is used as a store room by Miles Duffey.

The next general stores were opened by Axel Johnson, dry good store, and Mr. Mitchell and W. L. Cohagan, groceries and hardware. Mr. Johnson sold out to O. A. Brantin and went to Spalding, later F. L. Mitchell sold his interest to Edward Jensen. Cohagan Jensen ran this place two years, selling to Hohn Brothers, who in turn sold to the Farmers Union. The postmasters have been Mr. Constock, C. T. Hill, Huldah Anderson, Cecil Smersh, and the present post-mistress, Mrs. Mae Slater.

The first lumber yard was put in by the George Hoagland Lumber Company and continued for about ten years, then sold to the Hordville Lumber Company with Aaron Bloomquist present manager.

The first elevator was built by T. B. Hord, and Lexington Elevator Milling Company, who sold to the Farmers Grain and Live Stock Company during the first year, and are still running it. T. B. Hord still owns his elevator.

T. O. Larson ran the first blacksmith shop for about three years then sold it to Morris Benson and J. Refshaug. They sold in about a year's time to the present owner, John Vierberg.

The first hotel was run by T. L. Wallin who combined it with a grocery store. This is run by Leonard Wallin and J. O. Wade at the present time.

J. Carlson started the first harness shop. After it burned Frank Linwall ran one until he moved to North Platte.

The Greive Implement stock was the first one in town. It has changed several times and at present is conducted by The Farmers Union.

Mr. Jenning started the first meat market, and sold to T. L. Wallin.

V. McFarlan ran the first drug store two years, Mr. Brown one year, Cecil Smersh three years, Mr. Slater being the present owner.

The first cream station was run by Miles Duffey. A. D. Bush ran the first livery barn for a long time.

The first garage was started by F. L. Mitchel, who ran it for one year, sold to Reuben Larson, who ran it about six months until his death, then his brother Ira took it over and is still conducting it.

The Hamilton County Telephone Company furnished the first service to this community. The Public Service Company of Aurora furnished the electric light for this village.

Among the first churches in Hordville were the Swedish Lutheran and the Methodist. The Lutheran congregation bought forty acres of land of the railroad company and built their first church in 1882, then in 1908 built a fine new church under the pastorate of Rev. Gibson, who later died in Iowa. The present pastor of this congregation is Rev. L. G. Dadnay.

The Methodist church since 1907 has had as its pastors Rev. M. Smith, Rev. Mr. Litrel, I. J. Hopkins and Rev. Roland Martin.

The first bank in Hordville was The First State Bank, organized by Wilson and McCune of Stromsburg and sold to W. I. Farley and W. A. Hickman.

The town was incorporated in 1916, and the first town officers were: O. A. Bunting, P. J. Refshauge, Aaron Blomquist, W. L. Cohagen, clerk; H. G. Carpenter, police; H. M. Campbell, Ivan Bingston, police judge. The present town officers and board are: W. L. Cohagen, Aaron Blomquist, W. J. Dean, Thure Ostegren, L. G. Crampton, C. O. Rodine, Clerk; A. D. Bush, police, and I. M. Kuntsen, magistrate.

Among those who are living in town now, of the pioneers who lived here in the first few years, are W. L. Cohagen, Sam Biggs, Charles Larson, Mrs. Lisa Lingahl, Emma Bengstron, T. O. Larson, I. J. Lampshire, A. D. Bush, Carl Bush and Chris Christensen.

(This article was compiled by H. M. Campbell, Hordville, Neb.)

## HAMILTON

Hamilton was surveyed and platted by J. F. and T. H. Glover, in April, 1874, on the northwest quarter of Section 10, Township 10, Range 6. During 1874-75 it was an active, lively place, but after the location of the county seat at Aurora, the business houses were moved from Hamilton into the limits of its more successful rival. Hamilton consists now of less than a dozen residences and a schoolhouse.

St. Joe was surveyed and platted in 1881 by Joe Skelton, and for a few years was an enterprising little burg. The post-offices of Bunker Hill and Lincoln Valley were discontinued, and that of St. Joe established. In 1884 the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was built through the west part of the county, and the town of Phillips located. The post-office at St. Joe was then removed to Phillips, and most of the buildings of St. Joe followed. Major Skelton purchased the lots which had been sold, and on July 7, 1886, the commissioners on petition of Mr. Skelton, vacated the town, and it became a part of that gentleman's farm.

Farmers' Valley was a post-office point at this time, and was the only one off



the lines of railroad in the county. It is on Section 24, Township 9, Range 5, on one of the first farms located in the county. Lerton, Alvin, Leonard, Case, St. Joe, Lincoln Valley, Bunker Hill, Buckeye, Shilo and Otis were post-office points in the county, but have been discontinued.

A number of country churches were very early erected by the various religious societies throughout the county, many of them having regular pastors and a large membership. Of these the Russian Mennonite (Rev. Peter Regier, pastor) was one of the largest. It was built in 1887 at a cost of \$3,000, and was one of the strongest congregations, numerically, in the county.

The Danish Lutheran also had several large societies in the northeast part of the county, with an aggregate membership of two hundred families. In 1890 there were also four Swedish, four German Lutheran, one Baptist, one Catholic, one Presbyterian, one Congregational, one Methodist, one Christian, one Evangelical, and one United Brethren.

The county in 1890 was in a good financial condition, the bonded indebtedness being small, and a large portion of that has been provided for by the accumulation of a sinking fund.

While a few "sod" houses still remained, in those days relics of the early days, the farmers, as a rule, had good, substantial frame houses and barns, which gave evidence of the thrifty class of people by whom the county has been settled. Although but twenty-three years had elapsed since the first homesteader camped on the Blue—the well fenced farms, fine, thrifty orchards, elegant dwellings and large, substantial barns compared favorably with those of the best agricultural counties in the older states, and if the past is an indication of the future, "Little Hamilton" is to take its place in the front ranks among the agricultural counties of the United States.

## CHAPTER VIII

### SCHOOLS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

FIRST SCHOOLS—GROWTH OF SCHOOLS—EDUCATIONAL REVIEW—AURORA SCHOOLS—  
AURORA SCHOOL BOARD—AURORA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

#### FIRST SCHOOLS

The first school district was organized September 27, 1870. Joseph Stockham was elected director, and the census return of the district recorded the names of thirty-nine children of school age.

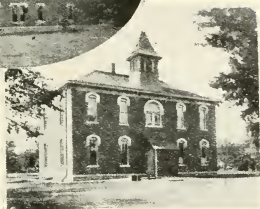
The first log schoolhouse was built by the old settlers of logs secured by subscription, in the year 1870, each settler furnishing a log. Two old bachelors bought the windows and two pine boards for a desk, the seats being made of split logs. It was situated on Section thirty-four (34), Township nine (9), Range five (5).

Miss Jennie Laurie (later Mrs. A. M. Glover) taught the first school with ten pupils in attendance, and was paid by subscription, the settlers contributing money or wheat as best they could, in the winter of 1870-71. E. J. Waddle, Esq., of Aurora, was a pupil in this primitive educational institution. He has described it: "The seats were made by splitting green box-elder, full of sap, which they never could get warm."

During this winter a short time after the schoolhouse was built, it caught fire, and was partly burned one evening, after there had been a social gathering of the settlers. After all had repaired to their several homes, two sturdy pioneers, Mr. John Harris and Robert Waddle, happened to notice in their wakeful hours about midnight, a bright light in the direction of the schoolhouse, and further investigation proved that this pioneer educational edifice was in flames. They hurried to the scene. Mr. Waddle, possessing a spirit of caution, remained upon terra firma, while Mr. Harris organized himself into a hook and ladder company, and mounted the roof of the burning building. He reached the roof in safety, and while standing in this perilous position, his clear musical voice rang out upon the midnight air, "Brave John stood on the burning deck, whence all but him had fled—" but the words were scarcely said ere the poles burned away and precipitated him into the interior of the building, together with a mass of burning timber, sod and dirt, with every conceivable way of escape blockaded, except to scale the perpendicular walls, which was all but impossible. He soon made his way out through a window, remarking as he appeared, "I guess brave John better get out of here." But Mr. Waddle was not idle after his friend disappeared; he went to work with a will, pouring water upon the flames, and being reinforced by Mr. Harris, the fire was soon extinguished. In a few days the



NORTH SCHOOL



SOUTH SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL

AURORA



building was repaired and the school going on as usual with no serious damage done to the impromptu fire company.

#### GROWTH OF SCHOOLS

The progress of educational interests in Hamilton County was sure and permanent in character. In none of its sister counties has more rapid advancement been made in the efficiency of the schools, or the number and character of its school buildings. They are the pride of the people, and ample provision is made for their annual support and the maintenance of the firm enduring basis upon which they were placed. The citizens contributed liberally in matters of educational work, and for a county in its youth, Hamilton compared favorably with many of the older counties in the state.

In some of the outlying districts a few rudely constructed school buildings were still to be found in the early nineties; relics of the pioneer days, but nearly all were furnished with large comfortable frame buildings, well furnished with patent seats and desks in a manner that would do honor to a more thickly populated state than Nebraska. The school lands were of the most valuable kind and furnished a handsome yearly revenue, increasing with each succeeding year.

School District Number 1, the first organized in the county, included all the territory lying in Township 9, Range 5 west. Notice of the first meeting was given to James Waddle, by County Superintendent of Public Instruction John Laurie, which was held at the house of James Waddle September 27, 1870. Joseph Stockham was elected director. There were thirty-nine children of school age in the district. A subscription school was opened in this district in a log school-house, built by the settlers, in the fall of 1870, by Miss Jennie Laurie.

District Number Two was organized at a meeting held in the dug-out of Joseph Stockham June 20, 1871. Byron D. Brown was chosen director, and the district included the east one-quarter of Township 9, Range 5, except the east one-half of the east tier of sections on the east line.

District Number Three comprised all of Township 10, Range 5, and was organized at the house of R. M. Hunt, March 3, 1870, with S. B. Chapman as director.

District Number Four was organized February 14, 1872, at the house of C. H. Kimball, and included the south one-half of Township 11, Range 6; S. W. Spafford, director.

District Number Five was organized at the house of M. Lewis, February 20, 1872, and E. J. Lewis elected director.

District Number Six was organized February 14, 1872, at the house of John Matthews, notice being issued to J. E. McBride, and included the east one-half of Township 10, Range 6, which was extended March 27, 1872, to include all of that township; first director, L. W. Hastings.

District Number Seven was organized at the house of William Werth, April 27, 1872. The first notice was issued to Robert Lamont and re-issued to William Werth, April 16, 1872. William Werth was chosen first director, and the territory included the southeast one-quarter of Township 11, Range 5.

In District Number Eight, notice of formation was issued to Noah Brother-ton, March 12, 1872, and the first meeting organizing the district was held at

the house of George Haner. The original territory comprised the southwest one-quarter of Township 11, Range 5, and extended March 26 to include all of Range 5 north, of Township 10; the first director elected was James M. Fodge.

District Number Nine was organized April 9, 1872, at the house of David Stone, in Aurora, the notice of the first meeting being issued to Darius Wilcox. The territory covered by this district included all of Township 10 west of Range 6, except the east one-half of Township 10, Range 6.

District Number Ten was organized at the house of Charles Pelan, June 22, 1872—boundaries, northwest one-quarter of township 9, Range 5 west.

District Number Eleven included the northeast one-quarter of Township 9, Range 6, and was organized November 9, 1872.

The organization of District Number Twelve includes all the district formed up to the year 1873. It was organized at the house of L. A. Franklin, November 30, 1872, and comprised all of Township 9, Range 7.

During 1873 twenty-one districts were organized, making a total of thirty-three, and at the close of the year 1874 the number of districts had increased to seventy-one, in 1875 to seventy-eight, in 1885 to ninety-five, and there were ninety-eight organized districts in the county. In 1890 there were three graded schools in the county, located at Aurora, Hamilton and Marquette. The school at Stockham very early adopted a course of study, preparatory to establishing a graded school at that place.

#### EDUCATIONAL REVIEW

Hamilton County was organized in May, 1870. John Laurie was elected first county superintendent of public institutions. On the 27th of September of the same year school district No. 1 was formed. Its territory consisted of the thirty-six sections, known as town 9, range 6 west of the 6th P. M. The county then contained eighteen voters, and in school district No. 1 resided nine families, with an aggregate of thirty-nine children between the ages of 5 and 21.

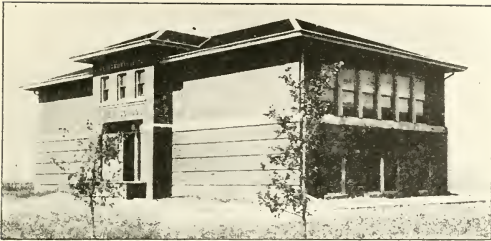
These families had immigrated from Wisconsin during the spring and summer of 1869 and were inured to all the hardships of frontier life. For some time Nebraska City, 125 miles distant, was their nearest trading point, the nearest postoffice was fifty miles and their wheat after tramping it from the sheaf with horses, had to be hauled the same distance to mill.

A careful watch had to be kept most of the time, for the treacherous Pawnee often prowled along the valley of the west Blue, stealing cows and ponies and sometimes a child would be missing.

But notwithstanding the privations and danger, these pioneers knew full well the value of education, and as soon as the district was organized, although there was no lumber within a hundred miles, a schoolhouse must be built.

The timber that skirted the Blue river was the most available material, and a comfortable loghouse 16x18 feet was soon erected, for seats having logs split through the middle, and desks, two boards hauled from Nebraska City by an old bachelor and given as his contribution.

In this building the first term of school was taught by Miss Jennie Laurie, for which she received fifteen dollars per month. Fifteen scholars was the average attendance, and while they recited their lessons the wild antelope galloped



SCHOOL OF HORDVILLE



PUBLIC SCHOOL, HAMPTON





on the adjacent prairie, and farther away could be seen the elk and gaunt timber wolf, while roving bands of Indians wondered why so many papooses were so often seen at this particular wigwam of the pale face.

Five years rolled by, and as far as the eye could reach in every direction could be seen the cabin of the homesteader.

The Indians, the wolf and the deer are for Hamilton county things of the past. Nine hundred voters were within her borders, and thirteen hundred children attended her district schools. The county was divided into seventy districts and when wood schoolhouses could not be built, the children eagerly assembled in the more humble ones made of sod.

District No. 1 had a beautiful frame house painted white and furnished with patent seats, teacher's desk, blackboard and other modern improvements. Miss Jennie Laurie was again the teacher with a salary of thirty dollars per month.

Ten years more have swiftly passed. The progress of educational interests in Hamilton county has been sure and permanent in its character; in none of her sister counties has more rapid progress been made in the efficiency of the schools or the number and character of its school buildings. They are the pride of the people of the county, and ample provision is made for their annual support and the maintenance of the firm enduring basis upon which they have been placed. The citizens of Hamilton county are above the average in intelligence, and contribute liberally in matters of educational work, and for so young a county its institutions of learning will compare favorably with many of the older counties of the state.

In some of the outlying districts a few rudely constructed school buildings are still to be found—relics of the pioneer days, but nearly all are furnished with large comfortable frame buildings, well provided with patent seats and desks in a manner that would do honor to a more thickly populated state than Nebraska.

There are three graded schools in the county. At Aurora, which is a high school district, a commodious brick edifice has been erected at a cost of \$15,000.00. The school is now graded in five departments. The work is thorough and systematic and the aim and intention is to complete a good common school education. The high school department also furnishes many second and third grade teachers, and students for the State University.

The following is a general summary of statistics by Prof. E. B. Barton, who as superintendent of public instruction for three terms has done much towards bringing the county up to its present standing in educational matters: Number of districts, 95; number of schoolhouses, 93; number of pupils, 4,150; value of school property, \$35,973.50; expense of schools for one year, \$46,593.57; teachers' wages, \$30 to \$75 per month.

In 1921 Hamilton county has 100 school districts.

#### AURORA SCHOOLS

The education of the youth of the city has always been deemed of paramount importance, and has received the earnest consideration and support of the citizens, and as early as 1872 a substantial frame schoolhouse was erected. The city was now supplied with two brick and one frame school buildings, divided into

thirteen rooms. A corps of eleven teachers were employed at an annual expense for salaries of \$5,200. The schools were divided into the first and second primary, first and second intermediate, first and second grammar, and the high school departments. The various departments were well equipped with apparatus, and good patent desks.

The number of children of school age in 1889 in the district was 652, about 500 being the average attendance. The high standing in scholarship attained by the pupils in the different departments speaks volumes for the efficiency of the teachers.

Mr. R. W. Graybill was the first to "wield the birch," in the early days of Aurora, away back in 1872, and E. B. Barton, Miss Jennie Scott, Miss Kate Giltner (afterward Mrs. Scott) and Gen. Delevan Bates successively occupied the position from that time to 1879.

In 1879 the school was divided into departments and Capt. J. N. Cassell became principal, succeeded in 1880 by Prof. Reese, who held down the principal's chair until 1881, when Miss Lizzie Craig took charge. Miss Craig resigning the same year, Harvey Cole completed the term.

In 1882 W. L. Stark filled the chair, and filled it well. He was followed by Prof. Seaford in 1883, and he by W. R. Hart in 1884, who retained the position until 1887, when he resigned, and Mrs. Scott finished the term. After that time Prof. H. R. Corbett served as principal for a number of years.

The following was the efficient corps of teachers in 1890: H. R. Corbett, principal; Miss Lou Arnel, assistant principal, high school; Mrs. Gable, principal, south school; Miss Minnie Fenton, second grammar; Miss Jennie Waddle, first grammar; Miss May Maxwell, second intermediate; Miss Ida Geedrich, first intermediate; Miss May Corbett, second primary; Miss May Leonard, first primary, south school; Miss Ollie Pinnell, intermediate; Miss Janie Lamont, primary.

In 1888 the school district of Aurora was reorganized under the statute relating to city schools, and the following board of education was elected: T. A. McKay, for term ending 1891; D. A. Seovill, 1891; H. Cole, 1890; W. L. Stark, 1890; A. N. Thomas, 1889; William Glover, 1889.

In 1889 A. N. Thomas and R. W. Graybill were elected for three years. The officers of the board are A. N. Thomas, president; Harvey Cole, vice-president, and D. A. Seovill, secretary.

#### AURORA SCHOOL BOARD

Those who have rendered faithful, unselfish service upon the school board of Aurora are entitled to a place in the permanent archives of the school history of the county, for their tireless, sacrificial service has played a great part in the present achievement of the system.

1899: J. H. Smith, B. F. Isaman, Mrs. L. Ellen Day, F. N. Jones, Ed. Huling, F. N. Howard.

1900: J. H. Smith, W. W. Shenberger, Mrs. L. Ellen Day, F. N. Jones, Ed. Huling, F. M. Howard.

1901: J. H. Smith, W. W. Shenberger, Pete Farney, F. N. Jones, Ed. Huling, F. M. Howard.



AURORA BUSINESS COLLEGE, AURORA



1902: J. H. Smith, W. W. Shenberger, J. P. Bute, F. N. Jones, M. F. Stanley, F. M. Howard.

1903: E. W. Curry, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, J. P. Bute, F. N. Jones, M. F. Stanley, F. M. Howard.

1904: F. J. Sharp, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, J. P. Bute, F. N. Jones, M. F. Stanley, F. M. Howard.

1905: F. J. Sharp, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, J. P. Bute, F. N. Jones, E. Von Foerel, J. N. Cole.

1906: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, J. P. Bute, F. N. Jones, E. Von Foerel, J. N. Cole.

1907: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, T. A. McKay, F. N. Jones, Oscar Gunnarson, J. N. Cole.

1908: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, T. A. McKay, F. N. Jones, Oscar Gunnarson, J. N. Cole.

1909: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, W. C. Keck, F. N. Jones, Oscar Gunnarson, J. N. Cole.

1910: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, W. C. Keck, F. N. Jones, Oscar Gunnarson, Magee.

1911: C. W. Wood, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, C. P. Craft, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, J. M. Woodward.

1912: C. W. Wood, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, C. P. Craft, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, Dr. J. M. Woodward.

1913: C. W. Wood, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. York, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, Dr. J. M. Woodward.

1914: C. W. Wood, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, H. E. Aglesworth.

1915: E. C. Rhinehart, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, E. W. Jackson.

1916: E. C. Rhinehart, A. W. Hickman, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, Otto.

1917: E. C. Rhinehart, F. E. Edgerton, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Dr. E. A. Steenberg, Shaneyfelt.

1918: E. C. Rhinehart, F. E. Edgerton, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Perkins, Shaneyfelt.

1919: E. C. Rhinehart, F. E. Edgerton, Oscar Gunnarson, J. W. Work, Perkins, Shaneyfelt.

1920: E. C. Rhinehart, F. E. Edgerton, Oscar Gunnarson, Brown, Shaneyfelt.

#### AURORA HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI

The roster of the first twenty-five years of the Aurora High School alumni disclosed many names of youth who have left Hamilton County and achieved success for themselves in various lines of work, and many who have stayed in Hamilton County and been very successful.

Under Supt. W. R. Hart the first classes of 1886 and 1887 graduated. Mrs. Dr. Steenberg was a member of the first class. No class finished in 1888. The classes of 1889 and 1890 graduated under Supt. H. R. Corbett. Under Supt.

J. M. Hussey finished the classes of 1891, of which Ex-Congressman and Ex-State Auditor Silas R. Barton was a member and also Rev. R. H. Houseman of Omaha, and class of 1892, of which Editor J. G. Alden of York, State Representative Frank Anderson, Cashier T. R. Work, and Mrs. Einer Peterson were members. Attorney A. H. Bigelow of Omaha was superintendent when the class of 1893 finished. No class in 1894. Under Supt. J. L. Rose finished 1895 and 1896 classes. Charles P. Craft was a member of the 1895 class. Arthur F. Gulliver, a later teacher, was in 1896 class. F. A. Hyde was superintendent in 1897, 1898 and 1899. Mabel Dixon, a dentist now, and Rev. Harry F. Huntington were in the 1897 class. Percy Purviance was superintendent in 1900 in which class Attorney F. A. Bald of Alliance graduated; Jos. Sparks, later a Normal College president, was superintendent when classes of 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1905 graduated. H. E. Bradford, now dean of the Nebraska State Agricultural College at Lincoln, was superintendent of Aurora schools from 1906 until 1910. J. W. Weingarten, Burlington attorney now, finished in 1908. O. K. Bowman and K. G. Hearn were superintendents in the school year of 1910. A. E. Fisher became superintendent in 1911 and remained until 1917, when the present incumbent J. A. Doremus, took up the work.

Practically every Hamilton County town now has a splendid graded school, and most of them the large, pretentious, well equipped brick buildings so commonly acquired within the past decade.

## CHAPTER IX

### CHURCHES OF AURORA

EARLY HAMILTON COUNTY CHURCHES—FREE WILL BAPTIST—METHODIST—PRESBY-  
TERIAN—DEDICATORY SERVICES—CHURCH OF CHRIST—UNITED BRETHREN—CON-  
GREGATIONAL—CATHOLIC—SEVEN DAY ADVENTIST—GENERAL CHURCHES.

The first church organization was effected at the house of R. M. Hunt in Beaver Precinct August 12, 1871, consisting of the following members: Ruth Hunt, S. B. Yost, Stephen Pollard, Alvira Jones and F. Ann Doty. It was called the Aurora Baptist Church, but was reorganized later.

Unity Presbyterian Church, Monroe Precinct, was organized by Rev. N. C. Robinson, synodical missionary, June 4, 1875.

Avon Presbyterian Church, Bluff Precinct, was organized by Rev. H. M. Giltner, August 11, 1876, who became its pastor and had charge until he was succeeded by Rev. J. H. Patterson in September, 1877, who was in charge until September, 1881.

There were also early church organizations of the Methodist Episcopal Church in several parts of the county, as follows:

Whittemore class, Otis Precinct, organized by Rev. C. L. Smith at Whittemore schoolhouse, attached to the Stromsburg circuit.

Van Wormer class, Orville Precinct, organized in the spring of 1873, attached to Aurora circuit.

Seward class, organized in the month of June, 1873, attached to St. Joe circuit in Union Precinct.

Boag class, also in Union Precinct, organized in February, 1875.

W. K. Ream organized a class at the Klumb schoolhouse in the winter of 1875-76, and another at the Fairview schoolhouse in the summer of 1876.

Rev. Clement Aldridge organized a class at the Cain schoolhouse in the summer of 1881.

Rev. C. L. Smith organized a class at the Hoffman schoolhouse in the month of February, 1876.

The Aurora Free-Will Baptist Church was organized in May, 1879, by Rev. A. M. Totman, Rev. G. T. Davis and Rev. W. H. Edgar, with twenty-five members, Rev. Mr. Totman becoming the first pastor, who continued in that capacity for three years. The church was organized in September, 1883, with the following members: Rev. A. M. Totman, Mrs. Totman, Cora Totman, Mrs. Hannah Lounsbury, Joseph Tompkins, Mary Tompkins, Mrs. Lucy Lee, Mrs. Anna Riley, H. A. Stone, Mrs. Sarah Stone, Eugene Nye, Charles DeMaranville, Clara E. DeMaranville, Isaac Kinkaid, Sarah E. Kinkaid, B. F. Isaman, M. A. Isaman, Ella T. Davis, Mrs. T. G. Davis, M. B. Hull, Mrs. Emily Hull, J. B. Sweet, Mrs. Ella O. Sweet, Robert Eyres, O. M. Soul.

In May, 1884, Rev. G. W. Knapp became pastor, and continued for two years, when the church was left without a pastor for two years until May, 1885, when Rev. Knapp again took charge, and has continuously filled that position to the present time. Rev. Knapp and his very estimable wife, who was president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, have not only endeared themselves to the church society, but to all who were fortunate enough to know them. Under his care the church was united and prosperous, and numbered a membership of over fifty. A house of worship was erected in the summer of 1885, dedicated in August of that year, which was well filled as each returning Sunday its bell summoned the congregation together.

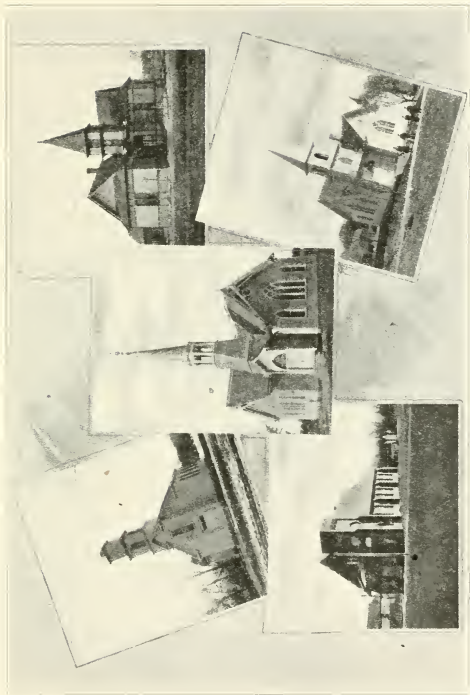
#### A REVIEW OF METHODISM IN AURORA, NEBRASKA

Among the early settlers of Hamilton county were a few men and women, loyal and devoted to the cause of Methodism, who in the fall of 1872 met in a little schoolhouse which stood on the lot now occupied by the Catholic church and organized themselves into a church society under the direction and leadership of Rev. W. J. Wilson. Among the early members of this pioneer organization were Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. John Matthews, Mrs. John Hagerman, Mrs. Delevan Bates, Mrs. Sarah Rudd, Mrs. Goodrich and her daughter, Ada (mother and sister of James E. McBride), Mrs. Sidney Lounsbury and Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Scovill. Rev. Chas. L. Smith was the first minister appointed to take charge of the circuit, which was called Orville circuit and comprised the entire county, religious services and quarterly meetings being held in the schoolhouses in convenient neighborhoods. In 1875 Rev. Smith was succeeded by Rev. William Seabrook Higgins, who was in charge for one year, and at the close of his labors here entered the ministry of the Baptist church. The conference of 1876 assigned to this field Rev. John T. Martel, who carried on the work for two years, resigning in the fall of 1878. Rev. W. F. Grundy succeeded Rev. Martel and was in charge for one year. Rev. S. S. Pennypacket was assigned here in 1880 and was succeeded by Rev. C. L. Smith, assigned for a second time.

The Presbyterians erected the first church building here in 1878 at a cost of about \$2,000. The Methodist people contributed somewhat to the building funds and when the structure was completed Rev. H. M. Giltner, the pastor, generously invited the Methodists to make use of it for their temporary home by holding services on alternate Sabbaths. This cordial invitation was extended in return for a like favor which Rev. "Father Giltner" had received from the Methodist people of Nebraska City when he was stationed there. As the Presbyterians gained in strength and numbers they were able after a time to occupy their church every Sabbath and the Methodists found in the old court house a very comfortable place for holding their services.

In 1882 Rev. W. H. Tibbits was sent to us—a man full of energy and determination—and during his labors the present church building and old parsonage were erected. The lots were purchased of W. H. Streeter at a cost of \$300 and our Brother Robt. Miller was chosen to superintend the building; and on one of the loveliest Sabbath days in the summer of 1883 Rev. Dr. Miller, our presiding elder, with Brother Tibbits, dedicated the building to the worship of God Almighty. Both of these men have long since gone to their rewards and it may





ST. PAUL'S UNITED EVANGELICAL  
OLD UNITED BRETHREN  
SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION  
CHURCHES OF AURORA  
OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
OLD CHURCH OF CHRIST



be said of them most appropriately, "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

At this time there was a membership of about 150. The members of the trustee board were: Robt. Miller, J. H. Bell, W. H. Alden, William Finlayson, H. T. Williamson, Seth Harkness, John Robbins, D. A. Scoville and S. S. Hayden.

Rev. G. H. Wehn succeeded Rev. Tibbits. Next came Rev. Geo. S. Miner, who, after a very successful pastorate, went from here with his family to become a missionary in China. Since then the following pastors have been sent to us, and, as far as we know, all of them are living: Rev. Bros. Crosthwaite, Couffer, Pearson, Maxfield, Crosthwaite (again), Calfee, Randall, Warren, Moulton, Woodcock, Gallagher and B. W. Marsh, then A. A. Randall, second term, 1910-1911, and J. D. M. Buckner, 1911, serving his tenth year.

As we review the early history of the church our hearts are saddened as we recall the many faithful and devoted ones who have passed on to their rewards, but their influence still lives with us and their memory lingers as a benediction in many of our hearts. Now the old frame building, which by reason of its association, holds a place almost sacred in the hearts of those who through the intervening years have borne the burdens and reaped many a lasting blessing, seems to have accomplished its purpose and is in the near future to give place to a more pretentious and commodious structure, better adapted to the present wants of the people, in which we trust more aggressive and more efficient work may be accomplished for the Master.

Mrs. W. H. ALLEN.

#### THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Dr. J. D. M. Buckner, Pastor)

Erected in 1909, under the pastorate of B. W. Marsh; cost \$22,000.00.

The church was organized in 1872 by Rev. J. W. Wilson with 14 members, one of whom is a member today.

Rev. C. L. Smith was the first pastor and the charge was called Orville circuit, which included all of Hamilton county.

Now there are thirteen churches with seven pastors in the county.

The first building was erected in 1882 at a cost of \$3,300.

The church has over 300 members today and 325 enrolled in its Bible school, about 100 members in the Epworth League, 28 members in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and 23 in the Woman's Home Missionary Society. The church raised for benevolence last year \$1,091.00.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. F. H. Salsbury

The First Presbyterian Church of Anrora is past 43 years of age. It was organized August 17th, 1873 at a public service held in the school house standing on what is now the site of the Catholic Church. Several events leading up to that occurrence are worthy of note. Hamilton county had been visited in the earliest of Presbyterianism early in the month by the Synodical Missionary for

Nebraska, Rev. Nelson C. Robinson. He came to Aurora in response to an invitation signed by W. M. Steele, Margaret Steele, C. P. Dick, A. M. Thompson, Maggie E. Thompson, Marie Wilson, Wm. A. McAllister, James A. Farris, Elsie M. Farris and M. E. Strain, who asked that he visit them and this community for the purpose of organizing them into a Presbyterian Church.

On Saturday afternoon, August 17th, 1873, these people gathered at the Aurora Hotel, where, with Rev. N. C. Robinson as Moderator and C. P. Dick as Clerk, they presented their callers from other churches and stated their purpose to enroll as members of the church to be officially organized the next day. The meeting was held as indicated above at the school house and the covenant signed, and the church duly constituted by prayer and organized as the First Presbyterian Church of Aurora.

Of these original members only remains viz: Wm. Steele. Others may be still living but if so the church does not have certain knowledge concerning them. Occasionally gatherings were held in the school house, but the organization was not incorporated until March 9th, 1878.

The first Pastor was the Rev. Thornton K. Hedges who came to town November, 1873, and remained until October, 1874; he was succeeded by Rev. Rufus B. Bement, August 1st, 1875 to October 31st, 1875 and he in turn by Rev. H. M. Giltner, D. D., from March, 1876, to April, 1882. It was during his pastorate that the first building was erected at a cost of about \$2000.00 and it was in this building that worship was held for a number of years. At the close of this very successful pastorate of six years, June 1st, 1882 Rev. W. J. Oliver came to serve the congregation and was here for about two years when in March, 1885 Rev. A. R. Day was engaged. Rev. Mr. Day's successor was Rev. J. H. Reynard who was followed by Rev. Robert Watts in November, 1888. He remained on the field for two years when Rev. George Bray took up the work, remaining for almost six years. In 1897 he was succeeded by Rev. H. D. Crawford, who in 1899, in the month of November, was succeeded by Rev. J. T. Russell, whose term of service terminated in October, 1902. The following Spring, in March, Rev. E. S. Chaffee was called to the pastorate and accepted. His labors were much blessed and he remained upon the field for about four years; during the interim between his pastorate and the next, Rev. E. K. Bailey, who had been an elder of this church for several years, often supplied the pulpit.

In 1907 Rev. W. O. Harper came to the pastorate and labored for six years. It was under his pastorate that the present beautiful edifice for worship was erected. In 1914 Mr. Harper was called to the church at Laurel and Rev. J. H. Salsbury, D. D., the present pastor, took up the work. (Since Rev. Salsbury, the church was without a pastor for a while, then secured Rev. Curry.)

DEDICATORY SERVICES  
FOR  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AURORA—1910

The new building of the First Presbyterian church was dedicated on Sunday last, and many who were present said they never saw more enjoyable and appropriate services on such an occasion.

To get the building has been a long hard struggle, with a comparatively small



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, AURORA



OLD METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, AURORA



membership, limited resources, but indomitable energy and intense loyalty on the part of members, congregation and friends, a great work has been accomplished.

This paper may be preserved long after the events of the day have been forgotten, so it will be well to record that when the church was built, Rev. W. O. Harper is pastor, the session consists of William Steele, B. A. Munson, Robert Curry, F. H. Blacker and A. E. Fisher. The Trustees are R. W. Boyd, E. W. Jackson, Frank Anderson, Geo. L. Burr, F. H. Donner, T. M. Scott and the Building Committee is composed of W. D. DeWaters, Albert Thompson and Geo. L. Burr.

Mrs. A. M. Glover has until very recently been president of the Ladies' Aid Society, and Mrs. J. K. Hupp now occupies that position. Mrs. Wm. Weingarten is Vice president, Mrs. John Work, Secretary, and Mrs. Geo. L. Burr, Treasurer.

Of the Guild, Mrs. Clay Jones is President, Miss Laura Whitmore, Vice president, Edyth Deeter, secretary and Miss Emma Shenberger, treasurer.

The Ladies' Aid subscribed five hundred dollars to the building fund, five hundred dollars toward paying for pews and nearly two hundred dollars for carpets, a total of almost twelve hundred dollars for this organization alone. The Guild Ladies, a smaller body of the younger women of the church, have paid for the electric lights, approximately four hundred and fifty dollars and the pulpit furniture which cost sixty dollars additional.

This makes a total of seventeen hundred dollars directly contributed by the women of the church, and they have helped devotedly and admirably on every other plan to raise money that has been inaugurated by the church. Two thousand dollars will not more than cover the amount that we know of that has been secured by their assistance—more than one seventh of the amount of the total.

With our sale of bricks, the auction sale of donated goods and subscriptions from friends who live outside the county it can be estimated that perhaps another two thousand came from people outside the city or congregation. An unusually generous amount came from citizens that had no special interest, save a desire to build up the community and strengthen good influence. To all these we owe a debt of gratitude greater than can be expressed in words.

Memorial windows commemorate those who have had to do with the past history of the church, and who assisted in bearing its burdens, and did their part in continuing the good influence of lives.

Altogether nearly fourteen thousand dollars has been raised and expended, the building alone costing about twelve thousand five hundred. It represents sacrifice on the part of nearly every contributor. All gave until they could feel it, and yet we venture to hope that all are satisfied with the result.

The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Ralph Houseman, of Omaha, and was a very thoughtful address delivered in a feeling manner. The subject was the Christian Church, the approved medium for an authoritative message and when he spoke of the Christian being called to "come," "Abide" and "Go" the season of the "consecration," "preparation" and "evangelization" we knew he had sounded the heights and the depths of Christian experience. The music both instrumental and vocal was of the best, and we heard many speak of it. The violin duet and the anthem, seemed special favorites. At the last the dedication

by responsive service of minister and people was short and simple but wonderfully impressive.

In the afternoon there was a fellowship meeting participated in by the pastors of the city and visiting pastors. All had a good word to say, and they said it with ability and spirit of the right sort.

In the evening the program was musical, and was enjoyed by all lovers of music, far more than an ordinary service. Doubtless a thousand people came to hear and about eight hundred and fifty were admitted, about fifty having to stand, Miss M. Dayton, Chas. F. Paetrick, Mrs. A. L. Burr and Mrs. O. M. Newman and Misses Bess Whitmore, Edith Forrest, Helen Ruby, Rhea Hupp and others assisted in the rendition of the sacred cantata "The Fatherhood of GOD."

Many, many compliments were bestowed on the floral decoration, for which the congregation was indebted to Mrs. Dr. Woodard, who brought them down from Lincoln for the occasion.

The enjoyment of the ceremonial would have been greatly lessened had any of our visitors failed to be present—Rev. Geo. Bray, Rev. Ralph Houseman, Rev. E. K. Bailey, Rev. Chas. Fye, Mrs. Woodard, the Baldwins and a host of others. Pleasant memories were awakened by the association and a nice feature of the occasion was the reading of letters from former pastors and friends of the church, all of which were so cordial that we feel impelled to reproduce one as a sample of the others.

San Jose, Cal., Oct. 1, 1910

My Dear Friends of the old First Church,

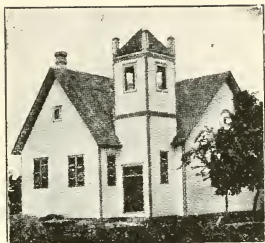
I am deeply interested in the dedication of the new old first church. I wish it was not so far to Nebraska, for then I could give myself the very great pleasure of attending your exercises and joining in your felicitations.

I am often made glad in hearing of the harmony and prosperity of the dear old church. She is yet young, as churches are stated in the east, but in your part of the great west, she is a veritable mother of churches, and she has always been a generous and tender one. I suppose that there is no survivor today from among the goodly few who first organized the church, and who bore the burdens of the early days. Indeed there are but few left of those whom I found in 1884 when I first came to Aurora, but I am sure that the spirit of the fathers abides with the children. I am sure that the old church, by the blessing of God, still stands for the truth as our beloved Presbyterianism interprets it and for the lifting of men by the grace of the blessed Christ.

My heart warms to the memories of the splendid and devoted lives that have lived in that church. Dr. H. M. Giltner, who organized the church, Father Bell and others who have passed on into the church triumphant are starred names on that old membership roll that should be a pride and ornament in the history of any church in any age or country.

Nor has the church been without its testing experiences. It has not glided through the years upon a smooth and easy path. But with unflinching faith and unflagging zeal it has overcome all its difficulties and doubtless it is all the stronger for them now. Today I give you all my affectionate greeting, and commend you to God, who is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among them which are sanctified.





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF GILTNER



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GILTNER



Accept my hearty congratulations. May each year make distinct advances in your growth in spiritual power and in the service alike to God and Man.

Sincerely and truly yours,

GUTHRIE W. CURRY.

San Jose, California.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

C. C. DOBBS

The Church of Christ in Aurora was organized by Elder John T. Smith at the Hamilton county court house on July 31, 1887, with 44 members. After two years of struggle and growth in the court house as a meeting place under the leadership of W. C. Barber, 1887-1888 and L. H. Humphreys, father and Mrs. Dr. Haughey, 1888-1889 they began to consider building a church house. Lots were secured at the corner of eleventh & L streets and under the direction of the church officers, composed of A. W. Ayers, Wm. Kelley, W. S. Harlan, Nelson Kutch, W. R. Smith and A. E. Hickman, George Daniels assisted by McCord and Coon erected thereon a splendid brick substructure during the year of 1889. The corner stone of this building was laid Oct. 28, 1889, the ceremony being presided over by A. N. Thomas, then Mayor of Aurora and a loved member of the congregation. There were present the following Ministers: L. H. Humphreys, pastor, and A. W. Harney, pastor at York, Robert Waite, pastor of Presbyterian church, George Knapp pastor of Baptist church. In the corner stone was placed an iron box containing a copy of the Bible, list of those present at B. S. on Oct. 27, 1889, and a copy of the following papers of that week's issue: The Christian Evangelist, Christian Era, Aurora Republican and Aurora Sun. This building was dedicated June 8, 1890, by Elder T. W. Rains, National secretary of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, with a debt of \$11,000, which was liquidated during 1903. After this followed years of struggle for these people. During the entire time, however, they tried to meet their obligation to their membership and the community by keeping preaching services all the time and pastoral work as much as possible. The following men served them in this capacity: H. A. Pallister, A. W. Harney, J. A. Beathe, A. D. Finch, Mr. Read, Mr. Vandever, Mr. Harter, E. Von Forrell, who labored for them in a continuous pastorate of 6 years, which were years of prosperity for the congregation. Then came the pastorates of B. A. Whiston, Jerome Immanuel, J. A. Burns and A. L. Hill who labored for 3 years with them. During this pastorate Evangelist Meyer's party came here and in a meeting in a tabernacle erected on lots at corner of L & 8th had 400 converts, most of which took membership with this church. It was then decided that the old building was too small and in course of a few months the present lot was purchased and the erection of a \$20,000 structure begun during 1912. However, because of drought and other hindrances there followed a period of depression such as usually follows building projects and during this time A. L. Hill resigned as pastor. The Congregation now meeting in the basement of their proposed building called Edward Clutter to the pastorate and soon after the close of his work, Elder C. C. Dobbs, the present pastor was called, beginning his work January 1st. 1915.

During all this time the congregation was not self-centered, but held many evangelistic campaigns for the winning of souls under such leaders as L. H. Humphreys, A. W. Henry, J. W. Elliott, Lawrence Wright, Melvin Putman, Evangelists Smith, Whiston, Meyers, besides meetings held by regular Ministers. The congregation now has a membership of over 350 with an average of 150 in the Bible school and every day sees the prospect brightening for the completion of their splendid church home.

They have former members and workers in almost every state in the Union and two young men, Paul Trenk and Tracy Munford in Cotner University preparing for the ministry.

While all the pastors have done notable work while here, those ministries which are outstanding in memory are that of L. H. Humphrey, who raised the money to start the first building, that of A. W. Harney, whose two daughters and grand-daughters are now members here.

That of E. Von Forrell, who is known state wide as an educator, and that of Alden Lee Hill, who began the erection of the present structure which we hope soon to complete.

#### CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In May, 1912, the men engaged in wrecking the old Christian church building, came across the galvanized-iron box, which was deposited in the foundations in lieu of a corner-stone on Monday afternoon, October 28, 1889. The title stone, which was set high up in the front part of the tower, was thought by some to contain the box, but the records of the church revealed the fact that the box was deposited elsewhere. The opening of the box disclosed only a lot of papers, which dampness and mold were rapidly decomposing.

The box when opened at Sunday service at the Tabernacle disclosed the contents to be: The Bible, Roll of Church and Sunday School Members, Articles of Incorporation, Copies of Christian Evangelist, Christian Oracle, Aurora Republican and Aurora Sun. In the record book of the church was the following account of the laying of the cornerstone:

"A large crowd assembled to witness the laying of the cornerstone. Mayor A. N. Thomas, who was one of the elders of the church, presided. Prayer was offered by Rev. Crosswaite of the M. E. Church, after which short addresses were made by Revs. Harney, Watt and Knapp.

"A. W. Agee, president of the board of trustees, then deposited in the place prepared for it, in the north-west corner of the tower, the galvanized-iron box. The throng then joined in singing, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow," and Rev. Baskerville pronounced the benediction."

In one of the Aurora papers is mentioned the breaking of ground for the new church, which was to cost \$3,500.00. These old newspapers disclosed some interesting facts of those times, among them that the Blue Valley Sunday School convention was in session and Rev. J. D. Stewart was urging some changes, which have since proven his wisdom. Both papers carried an immense amount of advertising and they were charging at the rate of six dollars a column for it. In those days it was not undignified for a physician or a banker to advertise, for Dr. Steenburg was there with a business card and the First National Bank with a

good display ad. Siekmann and Bells wanted to sell \$2000.00 worth of real estate. Ellis Wood wanted to sell real brick then—ice-cream brick now. R. H. Peard, W. W. Shenberger, W. L. Stark and W. F. Stanley were in the political arena.

Special services were held at the Tabernacle Sunday morning as a sort of memorial. There was special music and some reminiscient remarks and then an eulogy to the old church was given by Mrs. A. G. Peterson, who was one of its founders.

The new church, will be an imposing structure 64 x 92 feet, built of square paving brick to the water table then to some ornamental pressed brick trimmed with stone. Windows stained art glass. The auditorium is the main feature and is surrounded on three sides with a gallery. The building seats about 800 people. Woods & Condner of Lincoln were the architects and the cost of the edifice was about \$20,000.00. One-fourth of this amount was raised by subscriptions at one Sunday School service.

#### HISTORY OF THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH IN CHRIST OF AURORA, NEBRASKA.

In order to set some right who are unfamiliar with the origin of our church, I wish to say that the first conference was held in the city of Baltimore, Md., in 1789. It has therefore passed the century mark.

The local church in Aurora, Nebraska, was organized in a building formerly a part of the Hamilton County Court House in Nov., 1885, with the following members: Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Danl. Launtzer, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lakin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williamson, Chas. Launtzer and Hattie Launtzer; three of these have been called above and six are still on the church roll.

When first organized the members met and worshipped with the Free Will Baptists, who at that time had no preaching services. A number of the Baptists afterwards joined with the United Brethren and the church property was purchased for a consideration of \$600.00. The first board of trustees was elected April 16th, 1898, being composed of J. W. Eaton, F. A. Burt and Fred Peterson. The board of trustees at this time is composed of J. W. Eaton, F. A. Burt and Wm. Miche.

Since its organization the following named pastors have ministered to this people:

Rev. C. H. Polhemus, Rev. D. Geil, Rev. Wm. Thompson, Rev John Zimmerman, Rev. A. L. Zimmerman, Rev. Chas. Fye, Rev. Jennie I. Starkey and Revs. P. H. Schell, Walter Smith, S. M. Snider, W. Beasley, A. S. Beshore and H. H. Heberly, present pastor in 1921.

The church has had a healthy growth and now numbers 176 on its rolls. The Sunday school has grown from a membership of 40 to 165 in the main school with a Home Department of 26 members and a Cradle Roll of 30 members, making a total enrolment of 221. The present superintendent has been in office for the past ten years.

In addition to the Sunday school, the church has a live and working Ladies' Aid Society, a Woman's Missionary Association, a Christian Endeavor society,

a Junior Christian Endeavor society, a Children's Mission band, a boy's club called the Knights of King Arthur, and a Girl's club.

The charter members of our church believed that the church of their choice has a mission to perform in this community and time has proved the wisdom of their action. Eternity alone will reveal the good that has been accomplished by our own and sister churches in this community.

MRS. CARRIE A. M. BURT.

#### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Rev. J. W. Ferner.

The church was organized April 28th, 1872, forty-four years ago. Rev. L. W. Jones of Lone Tree and Rev. D. B. Perry (afterward president of the Doane College for forty years) then of Worcester, Mass., were present to assist those desiring a congregational church in effecting the organization, the following was the call: "We the undersigned residents of Aurora and vicinity believe that the interests of Christ's Kingdom would be promoted by the organization of a Congregational Church in this place and desire to unite with such a church at the earliest opportunity." This call was signed by the following persons: Porter C. Culver, Susie J. Culver, Mary E. Kimball, J. H. Farris, Amanda Hagerman, John Matthews, Good Noble, Elizabeth Strain, C. H. Kimball, Ella Farris, Eliza Matthews. The above were the charter members of the First Congregational church of Aurora.

C. H. Kimball and J. H. Farris were chosen deacons and Porter C. Culver, clerk. Trustees were chosen at a meeting held a week later. A. L. Seward was the first Sunday school superintendent, C. H. Kimball assistant superintendent, H. W. King, Secretary, Mrs. John Davidson, chorister.

The first pastor was David B. Perry who was for forty years president of Doane College and did such a great work there that Doane is today on the healthiest financial foundation of any denominational college in the state. Rev. S. Q. Hanford was pastor for six years and now for a number of years has been the superintendent of our state missionary society and state conference. Rev. W. H. Hopkins was pastor in the nineties and is now superintendent of missionary work over a large territory in the southland. Rev. E. A. Ricker was pastor from 1901 to 1907 and after leaving Aurora was Home Missionary Superintendent and at present is the Congregational Bishop (?) of the state of Texas. He is virtually that, although the Congregationalists have no such office. Rev. H. H. Price who was pastor a few years ago is now in his second year as president of the State Christian Endeavor Union.

Eleven years ago while Rev. A. E. Ricker was pastor the present commodious church building was erected; a building admirably adapted for Sunday school work and for social functions. It is of Gothic architecture, is all paid for, and ours; a commodious parsonage all paid for. The church is united and harmonious and thoroughly equipped for work that is loyally doing its part toward the realization of the Kingdom in the world.

In addition to the record some of its pastors have made there are achievements of its members which stand out quite commendably. Rev. J. D. Stewart was for many years a member of this church, and while active in all its local affairs he did a life work. He organized over 800 Sunday schools out of which



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CATHOLIC CHURCH, AURORA



ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, AURORA





have developed 200 Congregational churches and forty churches of other denominations. He organized the church in Arthur, the county seat of Arthur county, which church calls the church of Aurora the Mother Church. Mrs. Henry Stewart and her daughter Ida are now living at Arthur and are another important contribution of the Aurora church to the church at Arthur and two other churches organized in Arthur county.

Members from this church are now in other states of the union doing valuable service, some as teachers, some as preachers, some as students qualifying themselves for further service. Some are in Chicago University, some in Chicago Schools of Music, some in State University of Nebraska, some at Doane, some at Hastings. (Since Rev. Ferner, Rev. H. H. Pollard served and in 1921, this congregation has no minister).

#### HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catholic services were first held in Aurora at Mr. Furrey's house in the spring of 1878.

During the next two years mass was said a few times in the old court house and then services were held in Mr. Gavin's house by Father Geary, of Central City, regularly once a month for the next two years. There were eleven Catholic families in Aurora at that time.

In the year 1882 there were two public school houses, the south one was located exactly where the present church stands and was bought for the use of Catholic services at the cost of \$300.00. It was then dedicated and named St. Francis.

Father Geary said mass in the school house until in November, 1888. In the meantime sixteen other Catholic families located in Aurora. In the fall of 1888 Father Adams located here and said mass every third Sunday for about eight months. He was succeeded in May, 1889, by Father Sproll, who also said mass every third Sunday until October, 1891, when Father Dooley took his place. He was succeeded in December, 1891, by Father Turgeon, who remained with us until August, 1892.

During this time there was held the first Catholic Fair which realized \$850.00.

The next pastor was Father Dunphy, and he, with others, thought of taking this money and building a parochial residence while others suggested the building a new church, and at the suggestion of the Right Reverend Bishop Bonacum, of Lincoln, they decided to build a new church.

The old school house was moved to the west end of the present church grounds and for the next sixteen months services were held in this building.

The contract for the present church was let for about \$2,800. The building was commenced in the spring of 1893, was finished by the following fall and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Day of the same year by the Right Reverend Bishop.

The old church was sold to Mr. M. W. Walsh for \$150.

During this time another Fair was held which realized about \$700, and a subscription taken up by the pastor netted about \$500; this left a church debt of

\$1,300. At this time Father Dunphy moved to Doniphan, from there he attended Aurora every other Sunday until May, 1897.

Father Shine, the next pastor, located at Harvard, coming to Aurora every third Sunday, and at this time paid the church debt by subscription. He ceased attending Aurora in Dec., 1898, being succeeded by Father Brountz, who also lived at Harvard, and took charge of Aurora Parish until May, 1901, but was immediately succeeded by Father Bernard, who said mass every other Sunday until Nov., 1902. Next Father McShane attended, giving same services until Sept., 1904.

There were no services until Dec. of the same year, when it was attended by Father McDonald, of Hastings, or his assistant, Father Healy, and then Father Gilroy, until Jan. 1908. During this time mass was said one Sunday each month, and also many improvements were effected, including cement walks, steel ceilings, carpeting, interior decorations, etc., at a cost of about \$800. With the exception of about \$175, the church is now clear of debt.

Since January it has been attended every other Sunday by Father Healy from McCool, and we are looking forward in the near future to having a resident priest among us.

SUSIE MOONEY.

(The recent priests in charge of this parish have been Fathers O'Boyle, and McKenna, then Father Hagen, who was here when the old church was destroyed by fire and the present magnificent edifice was erected, and Father Donovan, who has been here since early in 1919.)

#### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS.

The organization known as the Seventh Day Adventists was formed in Massachusetts, in February, 1845, under the guardianship of Captain Joseph Bates.

From the sixteenth annual year book we take the following statistics of the numerical, institutional and financial strength of the denomination. Total number of Union Conferences, 16; local conferences, 87; with sixty-six mission fields not organized into conferences. The total membership of this denomination in the world is 87,311. The church in this city was organized about fifteen years ago, (1902 or 3).

#### A BIT OF CHURCH HISTORY.

The history of the Swedish Evangelical Mission church of this city, although a brief one, ought to be of great interest to those concerned. It dates itself from the year of 1884.

The meetings were then held in private houses. Mr. D. A. Johnson was then leader at large. There were only two or three Swedish families in the city at that time. But God, who had his plan laid out for a greater work among the Scandinavian people, blessed the insignificant beginning, so that those that started the work were made able to keep it up.

After some time as the interest grew stronger it was decided to rent a room suitable for gathering in. Finally the U. B. church was rented for that pur-

pose. At this time a Sunday school was organized of which Mr. D. A. Johnson and Mr. Fred Peterson were the principal leaders. Later on Oscar Gunnarson, P. M. Quist and K. P. Swanson entered the ranks as teachers, which greatly strengthened the Sunday school cause.

As the interest and attendance increased ministers were called upon to make periodical visits and preach the gospel. The first minister that served was Rev. N. Nelson, from north of Hamilton. After him G. Norseen from Siloa and John Anderson from Monroe, successively took up the work. The latter held the position for several years or until Rev. Eno. Berg from Omaha was called and had consented to come. During his time of service the congregation was organized under its present name. After this had been done it was only decided to build a church, and it was not only decided but also undertaken and completed with the good result that the church was all paid for at the time of dedication. The church property may be valued at six thousand dollars. The reorganization took place in the year 1904, when the church was incorporated as the Swedish Evangelical Mission edifice.

Rev. Berg served as its pastor for about two years and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. F. O. Gustafson, who was installed in the first part of June, 1906, and the present pastor Rev. K. A. Isakson.

The First Baptist Church of Aurora was organized in May, 1872, by Rev. Mr. Biggert, who became its first pastor, his ministry covering a period of two years. He was succeeded by Rev. Moses Rowley in the spring of 1876. Rev. Mr. Rowley was succeeded by Rev. Frank Mitchell in the spring of 1877, who was pastor for one year. In the spring of 1878 Rev. J. W. Lewis accepted a call from this society, closing his ministry in the spring of 1880, when he was succeeded by the Rev. A. J. Cotney. The church was completed during the pastorate of Rev. Moses Rowley in 1876, and was valued at \$1,500. The church became embarrassed financially, and the building was afterward sold under a mortgage, the purchasers tearing it down and using the material for building a dwelling house.

The society was then for several years without a regular meeting place and without a pastor.

Initiatory steps were taken in the fall of 1878 to organize a German Evangelical Church in Aurora, services being held by Rev. S. H. Holdgraf, at the houses of German citizens. The church was organized on January 13, 1879, with Rev. Holdgraf as pastor, and the following members: Fritz Hoefler, William Kramer, Louis Bald, Joseph Schwab, Adolph Reuber, Henry Kemper and John Fisher.

Rev. Holdgraf was succeeded in August, 1884, by Rev. Louis Kleeman, a young man of much worth and ability, who was followed by Rev. G. H. Becker, and he was followed by Rev. Herman Tietke.

A neat little church building was erected in the fall of 1884, the building committee being: August Strauss, William Kramer and L. Kleeman. At this time the membership numbered about thirty-two families.

German English Lutheran Church was organized in Aurora in 1920 with about 25 members, Rev. J. J. Timpen as its first pastor.

## CHAPTER X.

### LODGES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

HAMILTON GRANGE—EARLY LODGES AND FRATERNITIES, J. H. GROSVENOR—  
A. F. & A. M.—I. O. O. F.—G. A. R.—W. R. C.—K. OF P.—A. O. U. W.—R. N. A.—  
AMERICAN LEGION—Y. M. C. A.—ROTARY CLUB.

The first secret society organized in the county was Hamilton Grange, at Aurora, on July 28, 1873, with C. P. Dick, master; John Tweedy, J. C. Ratcliff, H. W. King, P. C. Culver, Rev. William Biggart, J. H. Faris, W. A. Epla, William Strain, Mrs. T. W. Pierce, Mrs. Amanda Hagerman, Miss Maggie E. Faris and Miss Susan J. Culver, as members. It continued in existence through the "grasshopper years," but in 1876 the members ceased to take an interest in it, and it was disbanded.

#### THE CITY'S LODGES AND FRATERNITIES

(By J. H. Grosvenor—1916.)

The golden age of fraternity began during the early history of our city. Great growth and steady development shown. Civic and business life of our community owes much to the "friendly societies." Intolerance and opposition have disappeared. Insurance orders strong.

In the space of a short article like this no adequate treatment can be given to the ever increasing activity of the lodge as a factor in our history and development and growth. We must generalize. Details of the life and good accomplished right here in Hamilton county by lodges and fraternities would fill volumes and we have only columns.

The historian of the future looking backward will say, "The friendly societies" of the 19th century brought about the golden age of fraternity in the latter decades of that century. Commencing immediately after the close of the Civil war there was such a growth of lodges, fraternities and civic associations as had not been known to history before. The brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God commenced to be commonly accepted and this was made the first plank in almost every lodge, secret society or fraternity. Of course, there was opposition as is always the case; of course, there was intolerance, as is always the case. But the trend of the human mind had been directed in the proper course and nothing could withstand the onward march of the clans and hosts of "good will toward men."

Forty years ago lodges commenced to spring up in the South Platte towns and Aurora was early in the lists.

#### MASONS

The Masonic order came to us with the organization of Aurora Lodge A. F.

& A. M. in February, 1876, and J. S. Miller was the first W. M. It was a comparatively small lodge and run along for some years in pretty hard lines and yet the flame of fraternity kept it alive until today it is one of the great lodges of this part of the state. R. D. Curry is the present W. M. and Glen Anawalt is secretary. There are about 125 members.

In May, 1886 Shekinah Chapter R. A. Masons was organized and in this Chapter the higher degrees of that rank have ever since been beautifully exemplified from year to year and the Chapter is today prosperous and on the highway of fraternal success.

Oddfellowship is represented in Aurora by Hamilton Lodge, No. 60, which was instituted in 1876 at Hamilton, from which it derived its name, and this lodge is today one of the strong and influential ones of the county. The first Noble Grand was T. A. McKay and the first secretary was A. W. Agee. Chas. L. Whitney is now N. G. and W. E. Reber is permanent secretary and treasurer, with A. M. Glover secretary. The membership numbers over one hundred. H. G. Cass is the only resident member who was one of the original charter members.

In 1904 steps were taken to organize the Encampment Degree and about thirty members took this work and organized an Encampment which still survives although not in as active state as the subordinate lodge.

#### THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

The K. of P. emblems were first noticeable in Aurora in 1885 when Mystic Lodge, No. 39, K. of P., was organized. J. R. Van Boskirk was the first Chancellor Commander and W. J. Stevenson the first Keeper of Record and Seal. Today it is strong, active and growing, with C. M. Grosvenor as Chancellor Commander and H. E. Newton as Keeper of Record and Seal. The present membership is about 80.

For a time a Uniform Rank was established and this was quite a feature with uniforms of a military type and a splendid band and often enlivened the public occasions of the day on parade. Later the active members, many of them at least, moved away and the rank finally disbanded.

#### THE IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN

Hiawatha Tribe, No. 15, I. O. R. M., was for many years one of the best known lodges in Nebraska. Organized in 1893 and at once taking front rank as a social and fraternal order it endured for twenty years and even then when giving up its charter was a strong lodge, but the mistakes and mismanagement of the Great Council in the state made it a question of this once powerful order in this city giving up its life because of conditions for which it could not be responsible and which it was powerless to change. So Redmanship vanished from our midst. At one time there were over 200 members of this tribe and its charities, its entertainments and its good times were too numerous to soon be forgotten.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

The Modern Woodmen of America came to town in the early 80s. The lodge was named Hawthorne Camp No. 446 and still numbers about 300 members, al-

though rate wars and internal strife in the order have cost it many members in recent years. Today Fred Kuhn is V. C. and W. E. Reber is Clerk.

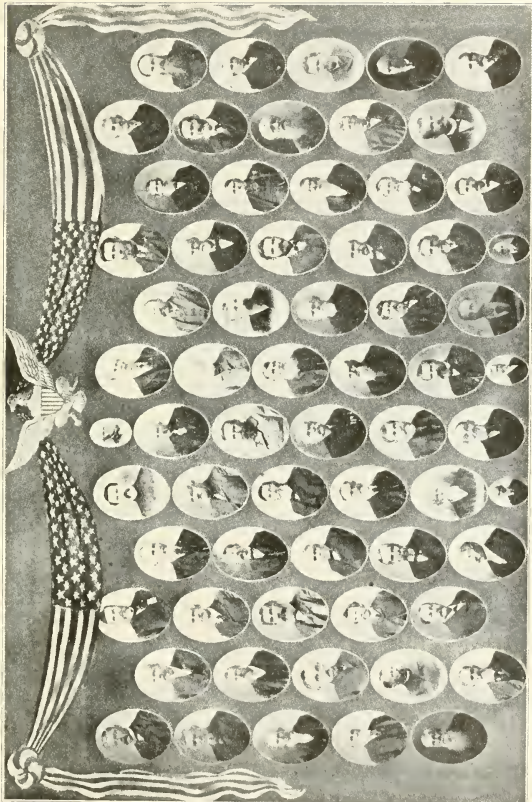
#### THE ROYAL HIGHLANDERS

This lodge deserves whole chapters. A home institution. Born in our city; nurtured by our entire citizenship and now doing business in nearly or quite one-half of the states of the union. August, 1897, saw the institution of Douglas Castle, No. 1, and today it numbers nearly 800 souls. The Head Castle of the order is here and the Home Building on our public square. It has dispensed benefits that now run in million figures, instead of thousands. No measure can be taken of its great work of usefulness and it tops all lodges here very properly in point of membership and appointment for lodge convenience. Chas. S. Brown is Illustrious Protector and L. A. Morris Secretary of this giant castle.

The Royal Highlanders in 1921 are operating in 17 states. Its steady growth is shown by the following table:

Facts and figures from the records showing how revenues secured from investments have increased our funds.

	Rec'd Commis- sion from Borrowers	Rec'd Interest on Loans	Total Rec'd on Invest- ments
1898 .....		\$ 725.85	\$ 725.83
1899 .....	\$ 1,288.75	2,353.36	3,642.11
1900 .....	1,265.75	4,881.61	6,147.36
1901 .....	1,025.60	7,725.97	8,751.57
1902 .....	586.25	10,127.47	10,713.72
1903 .....	1,410.25	14,209.40	15,619.65
1904 .....	1,749.95	18,017.80	19,767.75
1905 .....	1,892.40	21,656.27	23,548.67
1906 .....	3,985.00	26,384.37	30,369.37
1907 .....	4,107.10	31,181.22	35,288.32
1908 .....	5,858.50	36,469.87	42,328.37
1909 .....	6,881.50	40,116.13	46,997.63
1910 .....	5,210.50	51,076.14	56,286.64
1911 .....	7,021.00	55,934.98	62,955.98
1912 .....	6,258.00	61,467.64	67,725.64
1913 .....	11,732.70	68,680.82	80,413.52
1914 .....	14,692.50	76,273.83	90,966.33
1915 .....	11,492.25	89,634.59	101,126.84
1916 .....	13,740.75	95,529.60	109,270.35
1917 .....	15,748.50	100,480.85	116,229.35
1918 .....	6,459.38	101,901.87	108,361.25
1919 .....	7,462.00	90,278.41	97,740.41
1920 .....	20,085.00	83,584.46	103,669.46
Totals .....	\$149,953.63	\$1,088,692.54	\$1,238,646.17



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
C. A. Coates John Jones S. Meritt W. H. Hartman J. W. Hartman	Edie Wilson Alex. Wilson S. Lounsbury C. C. Harrison T. B. Johnson	W. H. Cassell J. J. Willis G. Harrison W. Shoberg	F. C. Perry J. D. Perry W. H. Streater F. D. Prosser Shoberg Jacob Ewell	Pollock J. Fritz Edie Halling J. A. Wilcoxon J. W. Moore C. L. Smith	D. Bates S. A. Verner A. McCaughey Benjamin Bates J. W. Moore J. A. Smith	H. Henry S. C. Stahland O. W. Stahland Wm. Stahland J. W. Moore Robert Miller	I. D. Strong R. P. Strong Jas. McElrath John Keane W. W. McCoy	John Drissell John Keane G. Robinson Alex. Coleman F. M. Hartman	M. Mitchell John Keane S. B. Gidhart W. Henderson F. M. Hartman	S. S. Madlock John Keane Dan. Richards I. N. Jones A. N. Thomas	H. F. Lashell John Keane Richard S. B. Chagman T. M. Chagman I. N. Jones Thomas Lafe Isaman

CIVIL WAR VETERANS OF AURORA





The Royal Highlanders show that their funds have earned over Twelve Hundred Thousand Dollars in commissions and interest, all of which has gone to swell the amounts contributed by members and to build up the splendid surplus after paying benefits of \$4,782,957.27. Statement, January 1, 1921: Total benefits paid, \$4,782,957.27; surplus funds, \$1,812,827.50.

W. E. Sharp has been President of this institution practically all of the time, though J. L. Rose was President a short time. F. J. Sharp has been Secretary, A. E. Seikman, Treasurer. These three with L. J. Seikman of Hastings, C. A. Smith of Tilden, F. H. Hanke of Sutton and J. C. Peterson of York constituted the Executive Committee. D. A. Johnson served for years in this capacity, as High Prudential Chief, and H. B. Treat also.

The Woodmen of the World have from time to time had lodges under way here but have never succeeded in maintaining a regular lodge with lodge hall and equipment.

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

This most famous of all "last man's clubs" was largely represented in the early days of its organization here in Aurora. Under its constitution it is fast fading away. Unless eligibility is enlarged and soldiers of the later wars admitted, then its membership is destined to diminish until the last man is reached in the years to come. Membership is therefore rare and almost impossible to measure in value, a privilege of a most exclusive kind to the brave soldiers of the Rebellion. Today the lodge in Aurora is thinning down rapidly. How long shall we see any of them with us? Should not this situation stir the loyalty and the patriotism of our people? "Honor to whom honor is due."

Other societies like the Knights of the Maccabees, Loyal Order of the Moose and possibly a few others, not now called to mind, have come and gone with the flight of the years.

Ladies auxiliaries have uniformly flourished. The Eastern Star, the Rebekahs, the Pocahontas, the Royal Neighbors, the Degree of Honor, the Ladies of the Maccabees have all had an existence in Aurora and all now survive except the Ladies of the Maccabees and the Pocahontas. All have large memberships and are doing good work.

The mystic society, the P. E. O., has as we are informed, a goodly number and is in excellent condition at this date.

All in all, Aurora marches in the front rank of fraternal cities. It would fill the ordinary directory to name the members of our lodges who have achieved prominence or become famous. Some day some one will perhaps compile and publish in book form a good comprehensive history of our lodges and societies.

Of the secret societies Aurora Lodge No. 68, A. F. & A. M. was organized under a dispensation granted February 10, 1876, and received its charter June 9, 1878. The following were the charter members and officers: J. S. Miller, W. M.; T. A. McKay, S. W.; J. H. Helms, J. W.; W. H. Streeter, Darius Wilcox, W. K. Ream, T. H. Glover, E. J. Hainer, W. L. Whittemore, Benjamin Freed, M. Hagarity, John Tweedy and S. S. Hayden.

During the year 1890 the Temple-Craft Association, an incorporation of this city, erected a fine substantial brick block on the west side of the public

square, occupying Lots 19, 20, and 21 of Block 19, at a cost of \$25,000, in which there are an elegant and commodious lodge room, banquet hall reception rooms, etc. An association composed of the A. F. & A. M., K. of P., A. O. U. W. and G. A. R. furnished the lodge-rooms throughout with beautiful, tastefully arranged appointments, affording the lodgers using the hall a delightful and comfortable place of meeting. The lodge gained a sound financial condition, owning a two-fifths interest in the lodge furnishings and considerable stock in the Temple-Craft Block.

The organization at that time had a membership of sixty-nine, and the officers were P. M. Green, W. M.; E. A. Steenburg, S. W.; W. F. Gooden, J. W.; W. H. Alden, secretary. Regular meetings were held on the first and second Tuesdays of each month.

Shekinah Chapter, No. 32, Royal Arch Masons, was organized May 14, 1885, with twenty-two charter members and the following officers: W. R. Bell, M. E. H. P.; D. Bates, king; J. N. Cassell, scribe; I. N. Jones, C. of H.; F. J. Brieker, R. A. C.; E. J. Hainer, P. S.; J. W. Jones, G. M. 1st V.; F. G. Bueham, G. M. 2d V.; A. S. Crosby, G. M. 3rd V.; Adolph Renber, T.; William P. Hellings, recorder, and W. H. Streeter, treasurer. The organization was highly prosperous and in excellent financial condition.

Hamilton Lodge, No. 60, I. O. O. F., was organized under a dispensation granted June 1, 1876, with the following charter members: T. A. McKay, E. B. Hoyt, A. W. Agee, H. G. Cass, L. M. Reber, Simeon Snow, James M. May, T. C. Klumb, W. K. Ream and W. L. Warn. The first officers were T. A. McKay, N. G.; Simeon Snow, V. G.; A. W. Agee, secretary, and Levi M. Reber, treasurer.

For a time the lodge flourished, and added largely to its membership, when divisions began to creep into the lodge and obstructed its harmonious working and for a time seriously retarded its growth. After this spirit had been eliminated, the lodge again entered on a more prosperous era.

Post No. 44, Department of Nebraska G. A. R. was organized April 16th, 1880, with the following Charter Members:

Jesse S. Miller, James M. Fodge, Delevan Bates, C. H. Kimball, Lewis Kelley, L. W. Hastings, R. A. Ingalls, E. D. Preston, D. A. Seovill, A. V. B. Peck, W. W. Trobee, Joshua Norton Jr., J. L. Trobee, L. C. Predmore, W. S. Strain, Robert Miller, L. Isaman, T. A. McKay, W. C. Preston, C. J. Agee, W. H. Pinnell, T. L. Meyers, S. S. Hayden, A. E. Cheney, W. A. Johnson, J. W. Thiery, W. L. Whittenore.

The following were elected as the first officers of the post: J. S. Miller, Post Commander; Delevan Bates, S. V. C<sup>3</sup>; E. D. Preston, J. V. C.; L. Isaman, P. S.; A. V. B. Peck, Chaplin; T. A. McKay, L. M.; J. M. Fodge, O. D.; J. L. Trobee, O. G. The above officers were duly installed by J. S. Wood, after which the Post Commander appointed D. A. Seovill Adj. t.; Lewis Kelly, S. M.; L. C. Predmore L. M. S. and the Post was named Zack Chandler, No. 44.

For many years a strong Post was maintained active in all matters of public interest, especially in relief work for soldiers, widows and orphans and memorial services. In 1906 a memorial Park was designed in the Court House square in which was erected a monument in memory of soldiers of the Civil War and a monument to the "Unknown Dead" the latter being the gift of General Delevan Bates who also designed the other monument and two army cannon which were

mounted in the Park and also a flag-staff. The total cost of the whole being some Three Thousand Dollars of which Fifteen Hundred was contributed by the County, thus giving every tax payer a part in it. This Park was dedicated on Decoration Day, 1906, the principal address being delivered by Hon. E. J. Hainer of Lincoln.

From a total enrollment of nearly Three hundred the post has dwindled to only eight members in good standing in 1921, over one-hundred being now buried in the Aurora Cemetery.

The foregoing article was compiled by T. B. Johnson.

Zack Chandler W. R. C. No. 36, was chartered September 14, 1885. Its Presidents have been C. A. Bacon, Deceased, 1885; Lizzie Reynolds, 1886; Ella F. Ellarton, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1894; Lana Bates (Died in office) 1889, 1895, 1896, 1901-2; Emma Cassell (Died in office) 1891. Rose Matlock (deceased) 1891; Martha Bristol, 1892; Jennie Jones, 1893; M. A. Isaman (Deceased) 1897; Mary Cain (Deceased) 1898; Della M. Carr, 1899; Theresa Barton 1900; Ida Putnam, 1902; Fannetta McGee (Deceased) 1903. Senna Kimball (Deceased) 1904, Jennie Lannsbury (Deceased) 1905-1906; Mary M. Smith, 1908-1913; Lavina Kearns (deceased) 1907; Mary J. Hupp, 1909, 1910, 1915, 1916; Ella Verbeck, 1911; Martha James, 1912; Sarah Faith, 1914-1919; Charlotte Littlefield, 1917-1918; Lavina Kearns Andrews, 1920-21.

The following Charter Members have been, C. Bacon, A. Hurd, D. Bates, C. Noble, E. Elarton, H. Myers, L. Tweedy, C. Hayden, J. Cassell, B. Hurd, L. Oyler, A. Kimball, A. Peck, M. Woods, A. McKay, S. Work, G. Pennell, A. Keller, L. Peck, I. Miles, E. Hull, A. Miles, M. Preston, M. Woods, R. S. Kagggs, M. Gebheart, L. Reynolds, C. Sweetland, A. Jennings, I. Birehill, M. Goodrich, C. Turner, L. Seoville, M. Humington, E. Gebheart, S. Mitchell, H. Kelly, A. Reynolds, R. McCarty, M. Kamper, E. Miller, M. Williams.

The number of members December 30th, 1920, was seventy-two and on March 31st, 1921, was one-hundred and thirty-eight.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH, MYSTIC LODGE, No. 39, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS, AURORA, NEBR.

Mystic Lodge, No. 39, Knights of Pythias, was organized May 7, 1885. Charter members: Thomas P. Leon, Jesse L. Thomas, M. L. Todd, W. H. Ferguson, H. C. Van Boskirk, H. M. Kellogg, W. H. Fairchild, W. I. Farley, M. T. Wildish, Emil Swartz, Frank Wilson, P. C. Westover, J. R. Van Boskirk, G. B. Williamson, Charles Pexton, James A. Wilson, L. W. Shuman, Robert Lamont, Charles J. McKee, F. W. Cornwold, J. B. Rogers, Fred W. Eaton, W. J. Stevenson, P. M. Green, Joseph Johnson, G. S. Kirkham.

The officers at time of organization were: J. R. Van Boskirk, C. C.; P. C. Westover, V. C.; James A. Wilson, P.; W. J. Stevenson, K. R. S.; P. M. Green, M. F.; M. T. Wildish, M. E.; L. W. Shuman, M. A.; Robert Lamont, I. G.; J. B. Rogers, O. G. The meetings were held in Masonic Lodge rooms in a frame building on the east side. At present the lodge meets in the Masonic Lodge rooms in Temple Craft building.

The presiding officers (Chancellor Commanders) since organization: J. R. Van Boskirk, L. W. Shuman, M. T. Wildish, J. B. Rogers, James A. Wilson, G. B. Williamson, H. E. Metzger, W. J. Threadkell, Delevan Bates, W. E. Lounsbury.

George Daniels, J. H. Likes, J. F. Dietz, W. I. Farley, F. M. Coykendall, J. P. Chapman, G. W. Curry, W. E. Worthington, F. L. Hart, C. C. Jones, H. E. Newton, F. H. Boyland, M. F. Stanley, J. G. Poley, A. P. Sprague, V. Swanson, C. H. Feelhaver, Charles Grosvenor, C. L. Whitney, A. Grosshans, O. M. Newman.

The Keepers of Record and Seal since organization: W. J. Stevenson, Delevan Bates, C. P. Whitesides, C. A. Sharp, J. B. Cunningham, J. G. Poley, H. E. Newton.

The present officers are: Dr. O. M. Newman, C. C.; Dr. J. M. Woodard, V. C.; C. L. Whitney, P.; A. Grosshans, M. W.; H. E. Newton, K. R. S.; Joseph Johnson, M. F.; F. H. Boyland, M. E.; J. L. Sauls, M. A.; R. L. Laurie, I. G.; D. M. Walker, O. G.

L. W. Shuman served one year as Grand Chancellor of the state. Joseph Johnson has been a member of the order since Dec. 7, 1881.

Six of the charter members are still members: H. M. Kellogg, W. I. Farley, James A. Wilson, L. W. Shuman, Chas. J. McKee and Joseph Johnson.

The present membership is fifty-seven. Meeting nights, the second and fourth Monday in each month.

A district meeting was held Nov. 22, 1920, about one hundred Knights present; lodges represented at the meeting beside Aurora: York, Osceola, Central City and Papillion. Five were initiated in the first rank. Grand Lodge officers present: Will H. Love, G. K. R. S., of Lincoln; H. N. Milner, Deputy Grand Chancellor, of Lincoln; J. N. Kildow, P. G. C., of York, and Dr. Hatfield, Deputy G. C. for the district.

On May 9th the lodge celebrated its 36th anniversary, at which the members and their families were invited.

H. E. NEWTON,

K. R. S.

#### A. O. U. W., AURORA LODGE NO. 6, AURORA, NEB.

Aurora Lodge No. 6, A. O. U. W., was organized in 1882. Its first meeting place was Masonic Hall, Aurora, Neb. Its charter members were J. H. Farris, Fritz Hoeffer, S. R. Lounsbury, Robt. Waddle, R. Miller, D. Bates, H. Sargent, M. Kohn.

The members who have served as presiding officers were: J. H. Farris, R. C. Machames, R. Miller, S. R. Barton, W. E. Lounsbury, Robt. Mitchell, J. R. Peters, Art Miller, Frank Miller, N. J. Rouin, Chas. Rouin, C. H. Barton, Henry Stewart, Ralph Woods, C. H. Hebb, D. Bates, O. W. Cass, L. J. Howell, J. A. Moses, Chris Miller.

The members who have served as Keeper of Records are: D. Bates, Wm. Threadkill, A. E. Siekman, W. E. Lounsbury (Recorder for 24 years), A. Le Higby.

W. E. Lounsbury was Grand Foreman for two years and was made Past Grand M. W. by courtesy of Mr. Walling, which title he still holds.

Present officers are: Chris Miller, M. W.; Ralph Woods, Foreman; Art Miller, Overseer; A. Le Higby, Recorder-Financier. Now has 48.

The records of our lodge are so incomplete for the years before 1890 that I am unable to get a better history.

W. E. LOUNSBURY.

## ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA, MISTLETOE CAMP No. 65, AURORA.

Mistletoe Camp No. 65, Royal Neighbors of America, was organized May 26, 1894. Its first meeting place was Union Hall. There were over 50 charter members, six of them still members.

The members who have served as Oracle have been: Christena Neir, May Phillips, Clara De Maranville, Etta Franklin, Helen Chidester, Edna W. Foss, Ellie M. Johnson, Eva Gingrich, Emma Fye, Hannah O'Brien.

The members who have served as Recorder have been: Ida C. Huffman, Helen M. Chidester, Elva Ankerman, Edith M. Howard, Edna W. Foss.

The present officers: Oracle, Hannah O'Brien; Vice Oracle, Mattie Meredith; Chancellor, Louise Wiegand; Assistant Marshal, Edith Johnson; Recorder, Edna W. Foss; I. Sentinel, Caroline Aldrup; Receiver, Ida C. Huffman; O. Sentinel, Mary Miller; Marshal, Marjorie O'Brien; Managers, Myra Kerr, Ona Barton, Emma Eckerson; Physician, Rachel M. Cooper; Musician, Sadie O'Brien.

Now have 119 members.

I was a charter member and have never been out of office, having filled every chair except Sentinels and Physician. Was Oracle seven years, and the present year will complete my tenth year as Recorder. Hannah O'Brien has filled the Oracle's chair nine years and Edith M. Howard was Recorder seven years before me.

EDNA W. FOSS.

## ORDER AMERICAN LEGION, AURORA.

The Order American Legion, Aurora, was organized in September, 1919. Its first meeting place was Union Hall, Aurora, Nebr. The members who have served as Adjutant are A. M. Hare and George Funk. List of members who have served as Commander are Carl Swanson, John J. Reinhardt, P. M. Cozier, Harlan Peard. The present officers are Harlan Peard, Commander, George F. Funk, Adjutant. Now have 175 members. Present quarters in Grosvenor Building on east side of square. Meetings first and third Thursday evenings of each month. Open to ex-service men at all times. Post name: Lester S. Harter Post, No. 42. Named after aviator killed in France who was former resident of this community.

J. J. REINHARDT.

## YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

Aurora has in recent years followed up the enviable reputations achieved by her faithful churches, her splendid schools, extensive pavement and general physical improvements by crowning this with a record on Y. M. C. A. work for her boys and young men. The movement gained an impetus almost twelve years ago and comfortable quarters were fixed up in the old Business College location. Secretary Morley came from Payette, Idaho, and efficiently launched this work. James B. Harvey of Aurora Electric Company and Prof. A. E. Fisher, president of the Y. M. C. A. Board did service that is almost incapable of recognition. Paul Busenbark was secretary for about three years, C. G. Beck served awhile and L. D. Jones about two years. A series of Sunday afternoon men's meetings were launched for some years that gave Aurora an en-

viable advertising throughout the state. Governor, Supreme Court judges, senators, officials and public men in all professions journeyed to Aurora and discussed important practical subjects at these meetings. J. W. Elo, the present secretary, came in 1918. The Y. M. C. A. has a splendid three story brick building.

Another achievement of note for Aurora wasn't so much in securing a Rotary Club, a little more than a year ago, as then being the smallest city in the world to have a Rotary Club. But that is Aurora spirit.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE PRESS AND PROFESSIONS

HAMILTON COUNTY'S EARLY NEWSPAPER MEN—HAMILTONIAN—HAMILTON COUNTY NEWS—PAPERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY—THE EARLY BAR—EARLY ATTORNEYS—LATER ATTORNEYS—EARLY COURT—HAMILTON COUNTY MEDICAL CIRCLES.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY'S EARLY NEWSPAPER MEN

Being a story of how they wrought and sacrificed that the prairie might attract settlers and be made to bloom.

The first newspaper established in Hamilton county was called the Hamiltonian, by J. M. Sechler, and the initial number was issued at Orville City, the county seat, in the winter of 1872-73. It was a six column folio, and the plant occupied a portion of the court house. H. W. Hickox, a homesteader on the same section as the county seat, was the first compositor, or typo, and Mr. Sechler was his own editor, foreman and manager. Both of these men had failing eyesight, and a patron of the paper ventured the remark that it really looked like the paper was also going it blind. The paper was not always issued on the appointed or advertised press-day, but sometimes delayed one, two or three days, which was always "Owing to circumstances over which we have no control," and one of its exchanges sarcastically asserted that instead of a weekly, it should have been called a tri-weekly—out one week and tried to get out the next. It was warmly welcomed by the people, however, not only as a novelty in a new land, but as an indication of advancing civilization and progress, and although the patronage was meagre, everything that the publisher could utilize, ranging from cordwood to buffalo meat, was taken on subscription. Mr. Sechler was possessed of one of those hopeful, honest souls, but his venture was not a guaranteed success. He later removed the plant to Aurora and continued its publication for some time, until approaching blindness caused him to suspend its publication.

Not long after the Hamiltonian was removed from Orville City, another newspaper entitled the Hamilton County News was founded by G. W. Bailey and E. J. Lewis, being a six column folio, its publication being intended to defend Orville in a county seat fight. Bailey and Lewis both possessed newspaper ability and the News was bright and sparkling, and enjoyed a good patronage, Sutton and Harvard merchants contributing a liberal share of the advertising in its columns.

In the summer of 1873 a lone buffalo, which had strayed away from the regular ranging grounds, whose age was computed by about fourteen wrinkles, came in from the west, following the divide between the Beaver and the Blue,

and with lagging speed sped along toward York county. This episode created a great deal of excitement, and many a settler jumped upon his old plow horse and gave chase, but the old buffalo reached the York county line before he succumbed to a bullet. Mr. Hickox, heretofore mentioned as the first compositor, aspired to become the poet "lariat" of the county by his effusion consisting of 18 or 20 verses of eight lines each, and the first four lines of the first stanza appeared as follows:

"The buffalo was up on the Beaver Divide,  
The hunter was down on the Blue;  
He said to his wife as he took down his gun,  
'I'll go up and jerk down a few.'"

All who joined the chase after this royal game surely enjoyed the poetic attention which was handed to them, and those who didn't join in the stampede were delighted because they were not in it.

After the first election on the county seat removal in 1873 the News was moved to Hamilton by Mr. Bailey, Mr. Lewis having retired, and its publication continued until the fall of 1875, when it was suspended. In March, 1876, it was resurrected by C. P. Whitesides and published by him for 18 months, when Mr. Bailey returned and joined its publication for about one year, when Mr. Whitesides retired. The News was moved to Aurora upon the advent of the railroad, and in 1883 Mr. Whitesides again secured control. In 1885 it passed into the hands of W. P. Hellings and Jeff L. Stone, and in 1890 or 1891 just naturally expired.

It has always been a question whether the News was the second paper to be published, or the Aurora Republican, but they were both issued at about the same time. The Republican was brought into existence to "Fill a long felt want," and it still survives, a credit alike to its founders and present publishers. D. T. Sherman and F. M. Ellsworth originated the Republican, Mr. Ellsworth being connected with the paper but a short time, and Mr. Sherman assumed the entire charge until some time in 1876, when L. W. Hastings joined with Mr. Sherman in its publication. Some time in the year 1878 Sherman retired and Hastings became the sole proprietor, and so remained until the plant was purchased by J. G. Alden and J. E. Schoonover some time in 1896 or thereabouts.

In 1876 the Aurora Telegraph entered the field, J. W. Sheppard, editor and proprietor, who continued its publication for two or three years, when it became non est. Mr. Sheppard was a versatile writer, and for that early day in newspaper circles in Hamilton county was considered an able editor, and the rivalry between the Republican and Telegraph for the patronage of the county was keen.

Another paper, the name of which has escaped us, was established in Aurora some time in 1877 or 1878, by Agee & Callegan. Nearly all the people of the county will remember Mr. Agee, attorney-at-law, who lived here so many years ago, but Mr. Callegan, who operated the mechanical part of the paper, we give a brief mention. He was a small-sized Irishman, young, keen, and a printer whom everyone was pleased to meet, but his paper had but a brief existence, and with



its demise Callegan disappeared, and his name and person are now only a memory.

Other papers have come and gone—the Hampton Herald, by H. L. Hellen, in 1884, was published for some time, when he died and it was continued by his widow and her sister, who made a bright paper during the rest of its existence. The Stockham Reporter, by T. B. Johnson and F. P. Corriek, sprang into life in 1887 upon the advent of the Elkhorn railroad and the founding of the village of Stockham, but its career was soon ended for lack of sufficient patronage.

The Aurora Sun was founded in 1885 by E. W. Hurlbut, and is still shining.

The Hampton Times was being published in 1896 by J. E. Schoonover, but after severing his connection with it its circulation became impaired with a disease resembling arterial sclerosis, or something like that, and it retired from existence in this world of sorrow and trouble.

And thus we list them—J. M. Sechler, H. W. Hickox, G. W. Bailey, E. J. Lewis, C. P. Whitesides, D. T. Sherman, D. P. (Coon) Wilcox, L. W. Hastings, J. W. Sheppard, H. C. Callegan, Lou Armel, W. M. (Billy) Ellsworth, C. B. Cass, Dan L. Machamer—the three latter, who learned their trade with C. P. Whitesides, these we remember as the pioneers among the editors, publishers and printers. Many others followed, whom we do not mention because they are still living among us, and are well known to the people. The oldest compositor in the county at the present time is C. P. Whitesides. Next in order, as a printer, is H. E. Metzger, who has been connected with the Sun nearly 32 years. "Billy" Ellsworth is now, and has been for more than twenty years, night foreman on the Daily World-Herald. C. B. Cass is now and has been publishing the Ravenna News about a quarter of a century. Dan Machamer is now a banker at Belleville, Kansas. Coon Wilcox is in the furniture and hardware business in the western part of the state. All of these could a tale unfold of the early years in the printing offices of Hamilton county, and in the opinion of the writer 'twould be mighty interesting, indeed.

Of those who have passed into the great silence there remains a pleasant memory. They were pioneers, who endeavored to keep the torch of civilization burning brightly, and while theirs was mostly a struggle for existence they builded better than they knew. Theirs was a work of sacrifice rather than reward, and those who enjoy this blooming wilderness, brought into subjection according to the eternal plan, through the labors and sacrifices of the pioneers, ably assisted by the old-time editors and publishers, should liberally accord them their full measure of appreciation for what they did "For the future in the distance and the good that they could do."

In the spring of 1873 J. M. Sechler began the publication of a newspaper called the Hamiltonian, at Orville. The paper was non-political, being devoted to "booming" the new county. It was published in the county clerk's office in the court-house, the building later occupied by Mrs. Rudd as a residence. The paper was issued for about three months and was then moved to Sutton, Clay County.

The second paper started in the county was the Aurora Republican, owned by F. M. Ellsworth and Thomas Darnall, but edited by Mr. Fox. Soon after D. T. Sherman bought Mr. Darnall's interest and took personal charge of the paper. In 1874 Mr. L. W. Hastings became editor and proprietor, bought the

interest of F. M. Ellsworth, taking personal charge of the paper in 1876, and in 1878 buying the entire plant. In 1889 he erected a fine two-story and basement brick building on the south side of the square, the first floor and basement being occupied as stores and offices, and the second floor being devoted to editorial and publishing rooms. This office was well equipped with steam power and heating apparatus, and all the machinery, presses and appliances of a first-class newspaper and job-printing office.

Thomas Darnall became a leading lawyer in Lincoln and for many years was one of the chief legal advisors of the Anti-Saloon League and one of the leaders of the prohibition movement in Nebraska.

The Hamilton County News was established in July, 1873, by George W. Bailey and E. J. Lewis at Orville. They were succeeded by Bailey & Hickox, who moved the plant to Hamilton in the spring of 1874, where it was edited by Mr. Bailey until the fall of 1875, when it was suspended. In March, 1876, Mr. C. P. Whitesides revived it, conducting it till August, 1877, when Mr. Bailey again became interested in the enterprise, and he and Mr. Whitesides conducted it until August, 1878. Mr. Bailey then became the sole owner and moved the office to Aurora in the winter of 1878-79, where he continued its publication till August, 1884, when he sold it to W. R. Ratcliff, under whose management it remained until August, 1885, at which date William P. Hellings and Jeff Stone became its proprietors.

The politics of the paper was anti-Republican, supporting the various combinations of the Greenback, anti-Monopoly and Democratic parties, in their efforts to defeat the Republican party. Upon its change of ownership in 1885, it underwent a radical change in politics, Mr. Hellings becoming the editor and converting it into a straight out red hot Republican journal. During the short period in which it remained under this management it was one of the best county papers ever published west of the Missouri River, being of a high literary character and pure in tone and expression. In June, 1886, Mr. Hellings became the sole owner, and continued as such until August, 1886, when he sold the outfit to W. T. Hastings, who published it for about a year and then sold to L. W. Hastings, when it became merged in the Republican.

While Mr. Bailey was conducting the organ for Orville in the county seat contest he boarded with William Glover, who kept the hotel and was himself a great joker. One Saturday evening Bailey said: "Well, get your pencil and let's settle up. I like to keep track of my business whether I ever get any money to pay or not. I owe you for a week's board for which you charge three dollars. I have been absent for nine meals this week, for which you ask fifty cents each. Just charge me three dollars for board and give me credit for four dollars and fifty cents for meals skipped. You owe me a dollar and a half, but needn't mind paying cash. Just let it go on next week's board."

The next venture on the attractive but uncertain sea, was in 1877, by J. W. Shepherd, who published the Aurora Telegraph, a Republican paper, for about a year, and was succeeded by Shepherd & Fritz in 1878. A few months later the outfit was sold to parties in Harvard, Clay County. The Aurora Weekly Journal, another Republican paper, edited by Agee & Callegan, at about the same time as the Telegraph, or probably a little earlier, had an ephemeral existence, five or six months, and suffered the fate of the Hamiltonian and Telegraph.

The Aurora Republican, which has been heretofore mentioned, established in 1873, and running up until about 1890 under management of L. W. Hastings, continued through the nineties under the editorship of L. W. Hastings, with L. E. Holmes as local editor. About 1899, Joseph G. Alden became proprietor and D. A. Scovill, editor. Alden ran it alone for a period. About 1907 Frederick H. Abbott was editor and James E. Schoonover, business manager. Then a company with Clark E. Perkins as president (and editor), C. A. Carlson, vice president, and Jas. Schoonover, secretary, took over the paper. Perkins left in 1919 and C. C. Dobbs became editor.

The Aurora Sun, "which shines for all," has been running since long before the nineties also. H. E. Metzger and E. W. Hurlbut conducted it through the period. Dan Machamer conducted it for a period. Metzger and Jas. P. Rawson had it awhile and ran it up through the 1910 decade. C. M. Grosvenor took it over a few years ago and with the assistance of H. E. Metzger conducts the paper now.

Among the men who have contributed most largely to the advancement of early Hamilton County journalism and who, through that medium, excited great influence in moulding public opinion in the county, George W. Bailey, L. W. Hastings, William P. Hellings and E. W. Hurlbut occupy a front rank. Mr. Bailey engaged in farming in Hitchcock County, this state, for a number of years; Mr. Hellings occupied the position of clerk of the district court in this county, while Messrs. Hastings and Hurlbut continued to ply the editorial shears, the former as chief of the Aurora Republican, and the latter of the Aurora Sun.

In the latter part of 1890 George L. Burr and Dan L. Machamer started the Hamilton County Register. Their partnership lasted but three months, the paper being purchased by his partner, who has owned and edited it ever since. It soon became a populist paper and so continued until 1901, when it resumed its original policy of strict independence (not neutrality) in politics. For a brief time when the editor was congressional secretary it was conducted by W. S. Day, but the owner did considerable writing for it during the whole of that period. It has steadily grown, always having strong and able competition. In 1900 it was largely re-equipped. In 1904 it added a linotype. For thirteen years it published the Royal Highlander in addition to its own work. In 1912 it moved into its own brick building and has since added another linotype, folder, and is now doing as much outside as local work. In September, 1919, the plant, business and goodwill was transferred by life lease to A. L. Burr, he and other sons having for some years taken a leading part in the business. When they engaged in other callings he remained and is now in charge, George L. Burr, the father, still doing editorial and news writing.

The Western Nebraska Land Register was the name of a five-column folio, issued quarterly in 1882-1883, by William P. Hellings. It was devoted to the interests of immigration and advertising the county, and had a free circulation of 5,000 copies.

Giltner has a paper called the Gazette which is a live-wire journal.

The Hampton Herald was started in the town of Hampton in 1884 by H. L. Hellen. He was succeeded at his death in 1885 by Mrs. Hellen and her sister, Miss Smith, who continued its publication for about a year, when they sold it to Whitmore & Addis. After four months' experience in the newspaper business

Mr. Addis conducted it alone for about a year, when it expired. Politics, Republican.

The Marquette Independent was published at Marquette in 1884-85, by Dr. T. H. Line, but discontinued after a brief existence. The Stockham Reporter was established at Stockham in August, 1888, by T. P. Corrick. It is Republican in politics. The present editor is J. S. Lounsbury.

The Hampton Independent, published at Hampton during the fall of 1889, was devoted to the independent candidate for county treasurer.

The Hamilton County Leader, edited at Marquette in 1889 by Mr. Barngrover, and the Bromfield News, published at Bromfield in 1888-89, had a small local circulation, but have departed to seek a more appreciative public.

#### THE EARLY BAR

Away in the east the sky was glowing. Great streamers were unfolding, carried by unseen hands. Shimmering lights were shooting along huge banners of the advance to the chariot that the King of Air and Life was driving in the light. The tears of Noble were wiped away by a tender and unseen hand. Animate and inanimate Nature looked up in delight. The brant, wild goose and sandhill crane ravished the ear with pæons of melody; the prairie chicken and quail cooed a soft welcome; the slender and elegant gopher sat upon his tail and sighed for a corn planter; the sturdy mule trumpeted out almost a defiance. Yes, the sun was rising. Hamilton county was being lifted in all her blushes, from the desert to the hill top, and the homeseeker, the strong, reliant man, the trustful woman looked upon her beauty, and she said, let us rest upon her bosom and find peace. The east is fair; tenderly and reverently will we think of her, but we are young, the camels are moving; let us go with them and greet our bride and dwell with her.

The light that morning fell upon two men, standing by a serpentine stream, baptised the Blue. There was, at first glance, nothing in common between them, but the second look through and beyond them, perhaps in their shadow you discern a mutual desire, a something that spoke of responsibility and authority. The shorter one was closely and compactly built. In the well-knit frame was strength and suppleness; upon his "Jove-like brow," sheltered by dark festoons of curly hair of that uncertain tint lingers give the martyrs; in the soulful eye and mobile mouth was the ineffable stamp of purpose and power. He did not resemble the blind goddess with the scales and two edged sword. He was not quite like her. Neither like the other inspiration of a shelter, upon her bosom a tender child, with a halo of infinite love, with a pleading and beseeching look. Somehow you felt that nature had not adapted him for a sculptor's model for this expression. But there is fitness in all things.

He looked as the first probate judge of Hamilton county should look, firm, decided and with a dare-to-do-right expression, yet withal he showed that his judgments would be tempered with bowels of compassion for the erring. The Hon. Robert Lamont wore the mantle of a judge of a court and record becomingly. He had just issued his first marriage license, \$1.25 was jingling in his pocket that he knew would be lost to him, for the fees of Cupid are exclusively the property of woman, and as he had been blessed with a helpmate, he was

uncertain if it would be exchanged for "Godfrey's cordial," a dress for the baby or a subscription for a fashion magazine. He congratulated himself that in a preliminary examination before Esq. Brown on yesterday, a poor trembling culprit had heard the justice say, "You are charged with murder. There is not enough to warrant this court to order you taken out at once and hung by the neck until dead, but you will be conveyed for safe keeping." There would therefore be no appeal for him.

The other man standing by the stream (his appearance gave notice that he had not forded it for some time) was ungainly, and gaunt of stature. He was a lover of the old time. Some of his habiliments had come with a "Salta" of the "Pinta" others with Hudson, his waistcoat was once Mouter Von Viller's, while his hat was the one John Alden won off the pen opener in the Miles Standish layout. He might have been a member of Caesar's truth legion. Napoleon's old guard, or he might have been recently graduated off a Chicago lunch route. It was hard to tell—very hard. He looked eastward, there was a look of sadness on his ingenious face, he occasionally palpitated with much motion. There was in his movements an air of the pregnant desire "to pass out and let the other fellow take the jack pot." He had been a victim of misplaced confidence. He had observed the county clerk take a long, deep draught from a kerosene can, a smile hovered o'er his features; that's the drug store snap. I'll register when the clerk goes out. Just then a wild cry rang out, "Take notice, gentlemen, take notice," the clerk ran out, the snap rung down. The mirror caught the expression of unutterable satisfaction; he paused for breath, and to bite it off. The mirror caught a look of horror, a wild dishevelled man, a nightmare, a lost spirit, the mirror burst into a thousand fragments. Aleck Posten had missed the prescription, he had seized the wrong can. Yet not always was he balked, for before another noon he had Gov. Abbott's scalp in his belt. There was much to compliment in Lawyer Posten and as the nestor of our legal lights, he is now remembered as a pleasant dream. Such was the bench and bar of Hamilton county in 1873; ample then for the due of an orderly administration of justice. When issues were joined Aleck was confronted by pro se or Bob Brown. The court was always open and justice was had without denial or delay.

It is reported that some unhappy wight, in spite of his denial, had \$10.00 worth of justice administered to him in the shape of a mule. Burning with revenge, he applied to a man learned in the law at Sutton, who issued a certiorari and the mulettee went in person to serve it on the muletor. He found him floor manager of a good old homestead dance. The bench paid over the \$10.00 without delay, and pleasantly remarked that the Latin term was an enigma, but if it was anything against the county officers it was a dead lie, or as it appears of record in book A, page 417, "If the said Latin contained anything reflecting on the present incumbents of the incorporal hereditiments of titles, offices and dignities within and for said county of Hamilton, the onus probandi was on the Allegator and the allegatoree by his answer denying the premature of said Latin, and further that he put himself upon the country the inferential conclusion of a ratiocinationist syllogistically expressed would be, not proven, and the allegatoree would be entitled to go hence without delay."

Up along the great broad train from Nebraska City to Junctionville each day came an army. Their music was the laugh of a child, their evening song and

the morning hymn—their banner, the flag of a union—their weapons, the plow, scythe, flail and churn—their trophy, a home. They came not to shed blood or destroy; theirs was to create, to upbuild; they left in their path a hope, a blessing, not a tragedy and despair. When the sun went down, all along the trail bright lights were burning; an unbroken camp; almost no arms were there except the loving sheltering arms of wife and mother, and the protecting arms of husband and father, for taps they bowed their heads, for reveille there arose a blessing. These clear headed, undaunted men, though sometimes, for a full memory was theirs, of other trails, when the women and children were not with them the weary march, the headlong charge, the stern repulse, thirst, disease, hunger, pain, horror, farewells forever, an empty sleeve, the broken hearted, with their saintly, patient, weary faces, waiting for the roll call beyond; with it sometimes they thought of victory, but above all of that sweet, sad face. "Motley and Monarch," of the inspired words "All free or all slaves." Was he not a king, had they tasted such bitterness as he, had they felt the brutal hand of social caste, could they find more abject poverty than was his? He was a pioneer, so were they. Had he not been lifted up? What can better express unselfishness, honesty, devotion and patriotism than his name, which was signed to the great Proclamation of Freedom; to the Homestead Act, which guaranteed to the poor and needy support and a home of their very own. Small wonder is it that nearly always in the living rooms of western homes there looks down with a perpetual benediction, Abraham Lincoln. These camp fires soon burned on hearths, and the land was fat and to preserve the sacred fruits of war and debates, that all should have their rights to keep the fire of liberty glowing, that none might forget that each one was sovereign, a little band of high-minded, zealous, and pure hearted missionaries came to us. How their names stand out—what a record of good deeds, heart aches and sugarings allayed, oh, the world can never, never know. Their names are as familiar as Jack, the Giant Killer, Jesse James and Benedict Arnold.

"To know them is to love them." What a field for the historian magazine writer and state prison association is the life and strange adventures of Posten, Ream, Darnall, Denion, Ellsworth, Miller, Agee, Wildish, Rittenhouse, Hainer, Stark, Leach, Hayden, Winters, Johnson, Smith, Van Boskirk, Likes, Hellings, Kellogg, Stevenson, Lincoln, Stone and Myler. There might be some carping pessimistic party who might secretly hint to his bosom friend that perhaps "there might be things" that possibly could be criticised in the conduct of the above named, but jealousy and slander is what every one pays to sterling worth. Then there are those who have lubricated and emerged in our own baliwick, and model young men they are, who never told a lie or stole a freight car,—Sauls, Graybill, Waite and Wiley, the roll of fame they will soon paint red. Having had the example of our truly good bar, they will, no doubt, soon run for office or Canada. They are as bright and promising a lot of young men as can be found in the wild, weird and rowdy west. Such has been, and now is, the bar of our county; a company of illustrious gentlemen; a defiant, blushing, stern meaning lot to be sure, easily embarrassed and put down; as truthful as George Washington or Ananias; as honest as Alexander Hamilton or William Tweed; as capable as the Halladay wind mill (for sale by J. R. Van Boskirk, northeast corner of the square, for cash or on time, \$5.00 for putting it in here), or Darius

Green's flying machine. They will some day enter into their reward. Who are these who rise up before us? They have walked with Marshall, Story, Kent and Parsons; these grand and good men deserve our homage. I cannot write of them, my pen fails me. Who can picture an Italian sunset, dying groan? There they stand in awful mien, the perfection of right and justice—alive—the bench of our county; they who have pressed the wool sack, one of them pressed it so it is sort of poorly now, but by exercise of great diligence it will maintain Judge Lincoln if aired frequently and blown up occasionally; Lamont, Hunter, Ward, Whittemore, Stark, Ream and Lincoln, that is a galaxy of "names not born to die." God save the state of Nebraska.

#### DEFUNCT INDIAN STOOD NO SHOW WITH LIVE LAWYER

We hear a story of Alex Posten, an early attorney in this county. It occurred following the battle between Sioux and Pawnees in which the former captured the Pawnee women, children and lodges, and the braves who had been decoyed away with prospects of getting buffalo had to recapture their women and children to prevent tribal extinction. It was a terrible battle and a great many of them were wounded as well as killed when they passed through Hamilton county. One chief who was badly hurt died and was buried on the Posten place. A few days after they had gone Posten was observed to have a good robe and was questioned how he got it. He admitted that after the funeral exercises he had reasoned that the brave absolutely had no further need for that burial robe and he did, so he just went out and got it.—Aurora Register.

#### EARLY ATTORNEYS

The following is a list of the attorneys who have been members of the bar of Hamilton County, together with the terms of court before which they made their debut:

Thomas Darnall, F. M. Ellsworth, E. M. Denion and Alex Posten, May, 1874; A. W. Agee, W. K. Ream and J. S. Miller, June, 1876; Hayden, Crippin & Posten, William Marshall, district attorney, December, 1876; George Wildish, M. B. Reese, district attorney, June, 1877; A. J. Rittenhouse, Miller & Rittenhouse, E. J. Hainer, December, 1877; C. R. Glover, June, 1878; J. H. Smith, Miller & Smith, June, 1879; W. L. Stark, Rittenhouse & Glover, William P. Hellings, December, 1879; H. V. Temple, Agee & Hellings, June, 1880; Philip Likes, January, 1881; J. B. Winters, December, 1881; J. H. Lincoln, J. H. Sauls, F. R. Norman, December, 1882; H. M. Kellogg, Hainer & Kellogg, December, 1883; W. J. Stevenson, Agee & Stevenson, November, 1884; J. H. Edmondson, D. M. Waite, Rittenhouse & Waite, March, 1886; J. A. Whitmore, R. W. Graybill, March, 1887; Robert Shirk, September, 1888; J. U. Davenport, January, 1890; F. M. Coykendall, March, 1890.

The members of the bar in 1890 were: E. J. Hainer, A. W. Agee, Philip Likes, Kellogg & Graybill, J. A. Whitmore, W. L. Stark, W. J. Stevenson, J. A. Sauls, J. H. Lincoln, J. H. Edmondson, F. R. Norman, W. P. Hellings and F. M. Coykendall.

## LATER ATTORNEYS

Those lawyers who have come into Hamilton County to practice since 1890 have not been so numerous, but the tenure of practice of a lawyer in such a county holds out well in years. Into the practice, in the middle nineties, came M. F. Stanley, E. E. Carr, James S. Musser and J. M. Day. Later, almost ten years, came Charles P. Craft and F. A. Bald. J. H. Sauls had been practicing at Hampton and John J. Roach had been practicing in the nineties. Craft & Bald rather succeeded to the Hainer & Smith practice. In 1913 Craft became associated with Judge Hainer in the Lincoln offices and Homer E. Aylesworth came to Aurora. After about three or four years' practice Mr. Aylesworth suddenly died. Soon thereafter Frank E. Edgerton, who had been assistant attorney general, came to Aurora, and the firm of Hainer, Craft & Edgerton came into existence. For a time Geo. Christofferson was with this firm and is now in Grand Island.

The lawyers practicing in Hamilton County in 1907, with the year of their admission to the bar were: F. A. Bald, 1904; Frank Coykendall, 1889; Chas. P. Craft, 1904; J. H. Edmondson, 1887; J. H. Grosvenor, 1898; M. F. Stanley, 1896; W. L. Stark, 1877; Geo. F. Washburn, 1884; and John A. Whitmore, 1880, the dean of the Hamilton County bar.

Charles L. Whitney was admitted in 1910.

In 1921 the lawyers practicing in Aurora are: Frank Coykendall, Chas. P. Craft, Frank E. Edgerton, C. Cooper Frazier, junior member of the Craft-Edgerton firm and present city attorney; Arthur M. Hare, member of 1921 constitutional convention from Hamilton County; John J. Reinhardt, county attorney now; Roseoe R. Smith, who is leaving in spring of 1921 for Pacific coast; M. F. Stanley, John A. Whitmore and Charles L. Whitney.

## EARLY COURT

By an act of the Legislature of Nebraska, approved June 12, 1867, the state was divided into three judicial districts, the counties of Cass, Sarpy, Douglas, Saunders, Lancaster, Seward, Butler and the territory lying west of the same constituting the Second District. A subsequent act, which went into effect June 21, 1873, fixed terms of court for Hamilton County, on the first Thursday after the first Monday of May in each year.

Under these acts the first term of the district court was held in the county, commencing May 7, 1874, at Orville City. Hon. George B. Lake, of Omaha, presiding, with J. M. Smith, as sheriff, and William R. Mitchell, clerk.

There were nine cases on the docket, the first being that of Levi Lentz vs. S. G. Glover and Thomas Glover; Dilworth & Robinson, attorneys for the plaintiff. There were no contested cases tried, one decree only being entered, on default of defendant, in the divorce case of George W. Howard vs. Fidelia J. Howard. The attorneys appearing of record at this term were Dilworth & Robinson; M. H. Sessions, of Lincoln; John D. Hayes, of Harvard; O. A. Abbott, of Grand Island; and Thomas Darnall, F. M. Ellsworth and E. M. Denion of Aurora. The last three, together with Alex Posten, constituted the bar of Hamilton County at that time, S. S. Hayden being admitted at this term. May 6, 1875, the time fixed for



holding the next term of court, Judge Lake failing to appear, court was adjourned sine die by the clerk.

On November 1, 1875, the new state constitution went into effect, by which the counties of Saunders, Dodge, Butler, Colfax, Platte, Polk, Merrick, Hamilton, York, Seward, Hall and Howard were constituted the Fourth Judicial District of the state, and the same year Hon. George W. Post, of York, was elected judge.

The next term of court was held by Judge Post, commencing June 13, 1876. This term was the first held at Aurora, to which place the county seat had been removed the preceding January.

At this term A. W. Agee, W. K. Ream and J. S. Miller made their first appearance as attorneys in the district court of this county. From this time on regular terms of court were held in the county, Hon. George W. Post presiding as judge until the close of 1882, when he resigned, and Hon. T. L. Norval, of Seward, was appointed by Gov. Dawes to fill the vacancy. Judge Norval was an excellent jurist, and a man of keen perception and fine attainments. He was universally respected by the bar and citizens of the entire district. He presided in this capacity until December, 1889, when, having been elected to the supreme bench of the state, he resigned as judge of the Sixth District, and Hon. J. H. Smith was appointed by Gov. John M. Thayer to fill vacancy.

By an act of the legislature, which went into effect March 31, 1887, the state was re-apportioned into twelve judicial districts, the counties of Seward, York, Hamilton and Polk constituting the Sixth District.

Among the important civil cases tried before the district court of this county have been: The State ex rel. the Commissioners of Hamilton County vs. W. L. Whittemore; Sechler & Brotherton vs. W. L. Stark; Joshua Cox vs. F. M. Ellsworth; George T. Hunter et al vs. John C. Soward; George W. Jordan vs. Hamilton County Bank; Henry Newman vs. George Mueller et al; State ex rel. Commissioners of Hamilton County vs. W. K. Ream; State ex rel. Reuben Graybill vs. W. L. Whittemore; S. K. Haines vs. Spanogle et al; J. C. Rateliff vs. J. H. Faris; School District No. 9 vs. School District No. 6; School District No. 16 et al vs. School District No. 9; William A. Johnson vs. E. D. Preston; William H. Waters vs. Adolph Reuber; Thomas Lynch vs. J. J. Reardon; Catherine Engle vs. W. V. Morse & Co. and many others. Of these a few which are of general interest and importance are here cited at length. Among them are the cases growing out of the division of School District No. 6. (Rateliff vs. Faris; School District No. 9 vs. School District No. 6; School District No. 6 vs. School District No. 9, etc.) One of these will be sufficient to explain the points involved in the suits.

School District No. 9 vs. School District No. 6, A. W. Agee and M. H. Sessions, attorneys for plaintiff, E. J. Hainer and George B. Francee, for defendant. This was a celebrated case and involved a considerable sum of money, which was claimed from District No. 6 by District No. 9.

Joseph H. Edmondson was born at Arch Springs, Pennsylvania, April 20, 1875, and died at Lincoln, Nebraska, March 20, 1918. He grew to manhood in his native state and acquired his education there. He came to Nebraska in 1879, coming to Hamilton county with the Burlington railroad when it was building through here, and located at Hampton. He made his home with the J. H. Sauls family and thus met the member of that family who later became

his wife. He taught school in Hampton and vicinity two years and began the study of law under Judge J. H. Sauls. In 1881 he was married to Miss Nellie C. Sauls. Four children were born to this union, one of whom died in babyhood. The wife and three children survived him. These children were: Walter, then at Camp Cody; Mrs. Rachel Hanson, Mullen, Nebraska; and Juanita, at home.

He was the only one of his immediate blood in this part of the country, his nearest relatives being at Altoona, Pennsylvania, and Denver, Colorado. All members of the family were present at his death and funeral except Walter. John Sauls, the brother-in-law, came from Harrisburg, arriving before the funeral party, to attend the service.

In the middle eighties Mr. Edmondson was admitted to the bar and practiced law at Hampton until his election as county judge in the fall of 1895. He served as county judge two terms, 1896-9. He represented the county in the Nebraska legislature one term and was county attorney one term, being elected to all of these offices as a populist on the fusion ticket. He was also elected and served as mayor of the city of Aurora. For many years he took an active part in all political and legal matters pertaining to the county and was accounted one of the able men of the Hamilton county bar.

Mrs. Julia B. Hainer, wife of E. J. Hainer, well known Nebraska attorney and financier, died suddenly at her home, 1339 South Nineteenth street, between two and three o'clock this morning, before medical aid could be summoned. Heart trouble was the cause. Mrs. Hainer was about sixty-three years old. Her death came as a great shock to the many friends of the family in Lincoln.

She had been in her usual good health all day Tuesday, having herself taken her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Hurtz, to the train Tuesday evening, in the family car when they left for Chicago.

Early this morning she awoke her husband and told him she could not get her breath. He hurriedly switched on the lights in the bedroom and picked up his wife to carry her over by a window. She succumbed in his arms. Medical assistance summoned as rapidly as possible arrived too late.

Mrs. Hainer was active in church and social circles, having been a member of the Sorosis and Lotus clubs, and of the Matinee Musicale.

The family moved to Lincoln about twelve years ago from Aurora, where they made their home for many years.

Besides the husband, two daughters survive Mrs. Hainer. They are Mrs. L. E. Hurtz, of Lincoln, and Mrs. J. C. O'Connor, of Berkeley, California, a prominent Red Cross leader.

Hamilton County Medical Society was organized at the office of Dr. W. F. Gooden, in Aurora, June 20, 1888. The following officers were elected: President, C. E. Brown, Bromfield; vice-president, A. R. Ray, Marquette; treasurer, W. F. Gooden, Aurora; secretary, F. J. Bicker, Aurora.

The physicians of York, Hamilton, Clay and Fillmore Counties had organized in 1880, but as the number of physicians in each county increased, they withdrew from the old organization and formed separate societies. The Hamilton County Society is chartered by the Nebraska State Medical Society, and holds regular meetings on the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October of each year.

The following is a list of the officers and members: President, W. F. Gooden,

M. D.; vice-president, E. A. Steenburg, M. D.; secretary, F. J. Bricker, M. D.; treasurer, T. J. Case, M. D.; C. E. Brown, M. D.; A. R. Ray, M. D.; D. S. Woodard, M. D.; T. H. Line, M. D., and C. B. Coleman, M. D.

There have been a good many physicians practicing in Hamilton County, but there are a few who should receive mention. Among these have been, of the later doctors who came in mainly since 1890: W. M. Knapp, Aurora; O. M. Newman, dentist; F. H. McCall, osteopath; D. S. Woodard, Aurora; I. W. Haughey and F. G. Snyder, first to Hampton, about 1898; J. P. Whitmore, homeopath; I. C. Krickbaum, C. I. Krickbaum, at Hampton; I. G. Myers, G. H. Marvel, who came about 1907, and F. A. Thomas, osteopath; Dr. Woodard's son, J. M. Woodard; J. E. Gelow, Hampton, now at Grand Island, in 1921; H. C. Vogt, chiropractic; Dr. Lucien Stark; Dr. Callaghan, chiropractic, and also R. C. Miller.

The doctors practicing in 1920 have been mentioned in the business lists of the respective towns.

## CHAPTER XII

### HAMILTON COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

THE BEGINNING—AURORA COMPANY ACCEPTED—SECOND PATRIOTIC MEETING—DURING THE SUMMER—JUNE 5TH REGISTRATION—RED CROSS ORGANIZED—COUNCIL OF DEFENSE—HAMILTON COUNTY LEADS THEM ALL—CAMP HAMILTON—RED CROSS WAR FUND—HAMILTON COUNTY'S BANNER—WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION—HOME GUARDS—THE ABANDONED CAMP—WOMEN'S REGISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES—Y. M. C. A. DRIVE—HONOR ROLL BEGINS—FOURTH LOAN—FURTHER HONOR ROLL—FOOD COMMISSION—GILTNER HOME GUARDS—STAMP DRIVE—HONOR ROLL AND GOLD STARS.

### HAMILTON COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

The record of Hamilton County in the great, but terrible World War, in the dark days of 1917 and 1918 will ever stand out a bright and shining mark in the county's history. Almost all Nebraska counties did their part, but probably no county in the state has a greater record in consistency or brighter record for promptness than Hamilton. There is so much that could be included, but the story of the work done "back here" by those at home has been practically written by Charles M. Grosvenor, for to the files of the Aurora Sun mainly has reference been had in compiling this chapter, and most of it is composed of the accounts of the various incidents and steps as written while fresh in mind.

The first great move "back here" after the formal declaration of war was vividly described by the Aurora Sun as follows:

"Never before has Aurora witnessed such a parade as that which passed about the business section of the city April 9, 1917, and there were but few who witnessed it that had ever expected to see such a spectacle in this peaceful community of churches, schools, industry and contentment. But the day had come when all of the fondest hopes of those who desired that the country remain at peace were to be laid aside and when men must take the one great and decisive stand for God and home and native land. The gore-grimed fist of the Prussian militarist had slowly reached out in its ruthless search until our nation had been compelled to stay its further approach—even at the loss of our own blood and treasure. A war not of our asking, not of our making and not of our desire had been thrust upon us as the greatest nation in the world standing for human rights and human liberty against all oppressors of every land. The moment to act had come and the nation had acted promptly.

"Last Thursday afternoon there issued a call, signed by Mayor James M. Woodard and President Roseoe R. Smith of the Commercial Club, asking that the citizens of Hamilton county unite in a public mass meeting to be held the fol-

lowing Friday afternoon. Congress had not at that hour made the declaration of war against Germany, but in the early morning hours of Friday the declaration was made by an overwhelming majority vote.

“Thus it was that Aurora held her big patriotic meeting within a few hours of the time at which we became officially at war with the German Empire. For days the business section of the city had borne the air of a national holiday, with the colors floating from buildings all about the city and decorations of bunting everywhere. But on Friday morning the entire city was decorated, Old Glory showing from every window and point of vantage on every thoroughfare. It was a sight to inspire, although the import of it all was felt by those who know the sacrifice, the sorrow and the fortunes that come with war. While the spirit of patriotism ran high and love of the righteous cause in which the nation was enlisting was the dominant note, yet there was the subdued and reflective thought of what it all may mean before the culmination—the time of which no man can foretell.

“Major Otis M. Newman and Captain Carl Johnson assisted the commercial club in making all the arrangements for the meeting and in the assembling of the parade.

“The old soldier fife and drum corps of Grand Island had been secured for the day and these white haired veterans of the sixties led the parade about the business section, the martial music carrying the older people back to the dark days of the rebellion and filling the hearts of the younger ones with that irresistible enthusiasm that knows no bounds. In the parade were many veterans of the civil war, members of the Nebraska Guard, boy scouts and citizens of every walk and vocation. Hundreds of school children were in the line of march, the smaller classes being accompanied by their teachers. The parade extended almost the distance of three business blocks and presented an inspiring sight. All business in the city was suspended and hundreds of people lined the walks as the parade filed past. When the marchers broke ranks the park was quickly filled, every available seat being taken, while hundreds stood throughout the service. The crowd was remarkably large, when it is remembered that the meeting had but twelve hours of notice.

“The meeting was presided over by Mayor James M. Woodard, who first introduced Mayor-elect W. I. Farley. Mr. Farley spoke briefly, setting out some of the reasons why the American nation had found itself in the folds of this terrible war and why the hand of European militarism should be struck down.

“General Delevan Bates, civil war veteran and hero of a score of hard fought fields, spoke for the men of the G. A. R. and told of the commencement of the Civil war, the call for volunteers and the long years of struggle which followed.

“Dr. J. D. M. Buckner, it was announced, was to speak for the clergy of the city, but upon taking the platform he rather intimated that he was likely to speak for himself—which he proceeded to do. Dr. Buckner had for a long time been a peace advocate and had espoused the cause with his usual vigor—but recent developments in the great European struggle had caused him to change his mind and to arrive at the belief that the kaiser must be ‘licked.’ Dr. Buckner said that two of his sons had married German girls and that back some distance his people had no doubt been German, but now all of us are American and the

encroachments of the European monarch can no longer be tolerated. He had no quarrel with the German people, but the kaiser must be 'licked,' and he advocated the plan of America sending men to Europe to see that it was done right.

"Postmaster J. H. Grosvenor, speaking for Uncle Sam, told the audience that it might appear strange to them to have a man in the civil service of the government talking to them of prospective war, but when it was known that the government had enlisted the service of all first, second and third class postmasters in making the actual enlistment and other preparations for war, they would better understand why he had been chosen to talk."

#### AURORA COMPANY ACCEPTED

Major O. M. Newman was commissioned by the Adjutant General to recruit a company of men for service with the Nebraska National Guard during the war with Germany, received word in April from the department that the Hamilton county company had been accepted and Major Newman was ordered to recruit to the war strength of one hundred. The company was assigned to service with the Fifth Nebraska regiment—the old Second regiment—which had been the wish of officers and men. Up to eleven o'clock of April 12th there had been seventy-six enlistments, and more coming steadily. The roster of men who eventually became members of this company showed the names of the following:

Levi Anderson, Aurora; Hugh A. Arnold, Aurora; T. Ambrose, Ravenna; G. L. Ambrose, Ravenna; R. L. Brill, Broken Bow; Everett Barnes, Aurora; Arthur Bearnth, Aurora; Ivan M. Bengston, Hordville; Otto Bomholt, Aurora; Park E. Brigham, Aurora; Louis Brown, Aurora; William Brown, Waterloo, Iowa; Albert L. Budler, Hampton; Chester Burt, Aurora; Elgie C. Bute, Hampton; W. A. Burriss, Broken Bow; T. A. Chamberlain, Merna; Lawrence Carlson, Aurora; Dewey Chaney, Giltner; Roy Clayn, Giltner; Arthur M. Conser, Hampton; Lafayette Cook, Aurora; Ralph E. Cox, Hampton; Allen Randall Cozier, University Place; Lester L. Croxen, Aurora; W. E. Dorland, Aurora; Eldred Duosenberry, Aurora; R. G. Day, Aurora; N. Dishman, Merna; P. R. Deboer, Ravenna; E. Frazier, Ravenna; William Faber, Aurora; Sidney A. Faith, Aurora; Fay Foster, Hampton; Andrew Fowler, Aurora; Fred L. Florea, Aurora; C. V. Graves, Merna; Roy H. Gardner, Aurora; Bryan Genoways, Phillips; Maynard R. Gilbert, Phillips; Earl Gould, Aurora; Lloyd I. Grosvenor, Aurora; M. Y. Guard, Aurora; Jesse O. Guard, Aurora; Warren Hare, Albion; Homer C. Hack, Hampton; Orville P. Hack, Hampton; Albert H. Hahn, Hordville; Edwin E. Hansen, Hampton; Jesse S. Hansen, Hampton; John Hansen, Hampton; Irl Hickman, Aurora; F. R. Hoekenbary, Hampton; Arthur M. Hare, Aurora; Chas. P. Harrison, Aurora; Bruce S. Huffman, Aurora; Harlan D. Hull, Aurora; Allen W. Hutsell, Hampton; Harold A. Hansen, Hampton; Geo. J. Hart, Pleasanton; Arnold Isaacson, Aurora; R. H. Jacks, Aurora; C. A. Jones, Aurora; John D. Johnson, Aurora; Roy Johnson, Aurora; Neils E. Jensen, Marquette; Soren C. Jensen, Marquette; Jas. S. Johnston, Aurora; W. G. Kaylor, Aurora; Carlton Kemper, Aurora; Walter Kenney, Aurora; Paul R. Kingston, Crete; Leslie Kettenring, Phillips; B. A. Kirkpatrick, Phillips; Gilbert Laurie, Aurora; Robert J. Laurie, Stockham; Arthur E. Leyrer, Hampton; I. R. Lefever, Aurora; J. Long, Aurora; O. J. Liedtke, Hampton; J. L. Lehman; Orval L. Marlow, Hampton; H. B. Max-

field, Aurora; John L. McGuire, Hampton; Clarence Moss, Aurora; R. H. Meltvedt, Aurora; L. G. Margritz, Ravenna; O. M. Newman, Aurora; Cabel C. Newman, Hampton; John R. Norris, Kansas City; Frederick C. Nowack, Phillips; John J. Nordgren, Aurora; Geo. F. Orendorff, Aurora; E. P. Olson, Marquette; Abel K. Porter, Broken Bow; J. G. Perry, Aurora; Howard R. Peterson, Aurora; William F. Powers, Hampton; W. Pinkelman, Hampton; C. G. Petty, Grant; R. A. Plummer, Aurora; J. L. Rupp, Ravenna; John H. Reed, Hampton; Robert E. Reed, Hampton; Clarence Reed, Aurora; Ross Ronan, Aurora; William E. Ronan, Aurora; N. E. Robinson, St. Michael; B. C. Reese, Ravenna; Mila P. Schisler, Aurora; Joseph A. Schneider, Hampton; Harold M. Schoonover, Aurora; Hardy W. Scott, Aurora; John Shull, Aurora; Mason W. Snyder, Aurora; Frederick Sorensen, Hampton; John R. Steele, Aurora; Herman Strong, Aurora; Kenneth W. Strong, Aurora; Lester Strong, Aurora; Carl G. Swanson, Aurora; Oscar Lee Swanson, Aurora; William G. Scott, Aurora; Dewey Stradley, Aurora; Ora S. Stokesbary, Aurora; George L. Sargent, Aurora; William A. Sears, Aurora; John R. Salmond, Stockham; L. M. Shultz, Merna; W. A. Street, Merna; Elwin Titman, Aurora; Glenn Tunison, Aurora; C. O. Thomas, Hampton; G. O. Tibbetts, Ravenna; G. A. Vanderveen, Broken Bow; Leonard C. Wallin, Hordville; Sturl Wallin, Hordville; Ray Waring, Aurora; Elmer L. Wessman, Aurora; Loren White, Aurora; Clyde F. Widaman, Aurora; Clifford Willis, Aurora; Earle M. Wilmot, Hampton; Carl R. Wilson, Aurora; Chriss S. F. Willadson, Hampton; Verne O. Wolff, Aurora; M. R. Westlake, Ravenna; John G. Smith, Aurora.

A second great patriotic meeting was described in great detail by the Aurora Sun, as follows:

"On Tuesday evening of this week there was held at the district court room the most memorable meeting in the history of Hamilton county—having its origin in the most unusual situation which ever confronted the American republic—the entrance into a world war, upon which the nation had looked for nearly three years in the capacity of a great peace loving and neutral power, ready and willing to lend utmost aid toward bringing the war maddened hordes of Europe back to their senses and to peace; then to be brought into the dark and seething maelstrom of ruthless plunder and destruction ourselves.

"It was not until Sunday morning that Major Newman, former commander of old company H, of the Second regiment, received his authority for recruiting a company of Hamilton county men for service in this great war, which now involves three-fourths of the entire world. Following the return of the Fifth regiment from the Mexican border there became a vacancy in the regiment and Major Newman procured the necessary authority, through Adjutant General Hall and Colonel Paul, to proceed. From that moment no time was lost. The meeting of Tuesday night was called for the purpose of giving the public all acquired information and to take the initial step toward organizing the company.

The response upon the part of the young men of the county has been more than generous. Without hesitation they have stepped forward and affixed their names to the enlistment rolls, in the true American spirit, that spirit which has ever been tolerant, ever considerate, ever kindly, yet which roused by a manly

sense of duty shrinks at no personal sacrifice nor is covered by any menacing foe. Many of these young men are holding places of responsibility and trust, and most of them will be leaving good homes, where they have never known of strife and turmoil and war. They are of the best the country affords—those clear skinned, clear eyed and clear minded young fellows whom the god of war first seeks. Theirs is a voluntary sacrifice, such as the men of the colonies made, such as the men of the 'sixties made, such as the real men of all time have made when honor, right and liberty has been trampled on.

At the meeting of Tuesday night patriotic addresses were made by Dr. J. D. M. Buckner, Clark Perkins, George L. Burr and John A. Whitmore. Mayor James M. Woodard presided at the meeting and it was opened with prayer by Dr. Salsbury, of the Presbyterian church. Dr. Newman, in the uniform of major, explained the plan of enlistment, its purpose so far as could now be known, the qualifications required by the government and many of the details which were of interest to the prospective volunteer.

At the men's meeting of the Y. M. C. A., the second Sunday afternoon in April, a movement was started looking toward the organization of a community committee in Aurora to look after the interests of the militia company which was shortly to leave for some mobilization center. It was decided to organize a committee composed of one representative from every organization in the city, including the churches, the Commercial Club, the Y. M. C. A., the city council, the school board, and lodges which desired membership.

A committee composed of F. E. Edgerton, J. H. Grosvenor and L. D. Jones was appointed to consider the matter to the various organizations.

The men's meeting Sunday, April 15, was the last of a very successful series of meetings held by the Y. M. C. A. during the winter. In all, twenty-eight meetings were held and all kinds of subjects were discussed by well qualified speakers.

The program consisted of the following:

Hymn, Coronation  
 Prayer  
 What are we here for? Lee Ullery  
 Our Boys, F. E. Edgerton  
 Song, America  
 Our Country, J. H. Grosvenor  
 Our Churches, Rev. C. C. Dobbs  
 Our Duty to Our God, Rev. J. D. M. Buckner  
 Hymn, Battle Hymn of the Republic  
 Benediction

#### ORGANIZATION OF RED CROSS SOCIETY IN AURORA

As a result of some weeks of agitation and work among the citizens of Aurora an organization of the American Red Cross was effected at the M. E. Church on April 22d. Mayor Chas. G. Ryan of Grand Island, gave a very lucid outline of the work and why Hamilton County needed a Red Cross. He said that the forces must be organized at home as well as on the fighting line and that if the



United States went into a big battle, we only had surgical dressing, etc., to last us ten days.

Nominations for the temporary organization brought in the names of Mrs. A. G. Peterson for president; Mrs. E. A. Steenburg, vice-president; Mrs. W. R. Webber, secretary; Mrs. F. C. Mather, treasurer.

#### DURING THE SUMMER

During the Third week in May, people of Hamilton County poured out their expression of appreciation to the young men who had volunteered their service to their country. And during that week special services, dinners and receptions were in order throughout the entire community. The United Brethren church gave a dinner and reception to its boys who were in Company H. The Presbyterian church held a special service for the sixteen soldier boys of its congregation, and the Methodist church held a special service with some fifty boys sitting in the place of honor.

The Housekeepers class of the Presbyterian church, the Swedish Mission congregation and the community of Hordville also held special occasions. In the fourth week of May, Company H passed its first federal inspection and elected officers.

Upon the election of officers for Company H, a good vote was polled, and although a number of the men were absent from the county on leave and the five Hordville members did not vote, there were eighty-five ballots cast. A separate election was held at Hampton for the convenience of the large number of men there. Sixty-five of the votes were cast at Aurora and twenty at Hampton. At nine o'clock Sunday night the polls closed and the tellers counted the vote. The result of the election for First Lieutenant was Hare 19, Dorland 66. Mr. Hare was absent from the county at the time of the election, but there was but little campaigning by any of the candidates. For Second Lieutenant the result was very close. C. F. Widaman received 44 of the 85 votes and Elgie Bute received 41. Hare and Bute, were lined up for appointment as Sergeants.

#### JUNE 5TH REGISTRATION.

Acting under instructions from the government, Sheriff Howard, County Clerk Klumb and County Physician J. M. Woodard selected the following registration officers for the various precincts of Hamilton county to serve at the June 5th registration:

Farmers Valley—Perry Reed, clerk; Walter Rollo, registrar.

Beaver—L. D. Camp, clerk; Mark Condon, registrar.

Orville—R. L. Laurie, clerk; S. H. Riker, registrar.

Union—John Wulstein, clerk; Nels Lebaron, registrar.

Seoville—Ed Snider, clerk; M. Pressler, registrar.

Aurora—Frank Rundle, clerk; Sam Otto, registrar.

Hamilton—Guy Huffman, clerk; William Sims, registrar.

Deepwell—David Carlson, Clerk; E. W. Curtain, registrar.

Valley—Charles Feelhaver, clerk; A. L. Gausman, registrar.

Grant—Gust Peterson, clerk; W. W. Foss, registrar.

Monroe—Henry Berggren, clerk; Theodore Nordgren, registrar.  
 Phillips—Emmett Arnett, clerk; Reverend Johnson, registrar.  
 Otis—Ira Bush, clerk; Ike Lampshire, registrar.  
 South Platte—A. B. Cowley, clerk; J. J. Refshauge, registrar.  
 Bluff—Aaron Blomquist, clerk; Charles Campbell, registrar.  
 Aurora City, First Ward—Richard Hogg, clerk; Henry Leymaster registrar.  
 Second Ward—Rev. J. H. Salisbury, clerk; Rev. A. S. Beshore, registrar.  
 Third Ward—F. A. Burt, clerk; Rev. C. C. Dobbs, registrar.  
 Registration for Hamilton county on June 5th, by precincts was as follows:

PRECINCTS	GRAND TOTAL
Farmers Valley .....	54
Orville .....	65
Union .....	78
Scoville .....	46
Beaver .....	68
Aurora .....	58
Hamilton .....	66
Deepwell .....	59
Valley .....	101
Grant .....	62
Monroe .....	79
Phillips .....	49
Otis .....	71
South Platte .....	112
Bluff .....	70
Aurora 1st ward .....	76
Aurora 2nd ward .....	78
Aurora 3rd ward .....	49
Totals .....	1,241

#### RED CROSS FULLY ORGANIZED

At a called meeting for the purpose of perfecting a permanent organization of the Red Cross Society held May 17th at the Court-house in Aurora, the following officers were elected: Mrs. A. G. Peterson, president; Mrs. E. A. Steenburg, vice-president; Mrs. W. I. Farley, secretary; Mrs. C. F. Mather, treasurer.

Following are the names of the directors chosen at this meeting: J. A. Isaman, Aurora; T. B. Johnson, Aurora; D. A. Johnson, Aurora; Senator J. M. Cox, Hampton; C. L. Ricker, Stockham; Aaron Bloomquist, Hordville; J. J. Refshauge, Marquette; Geo. Horn, Phillips; M. A. Isaakson, Murphy.

#### THE RED CROSS CHAPTERS

The County was divided into sub districts to secure uniform and effective work for the Red Cross.

At the meeting of the Aurora Chapter held June 10th, it was decided to

organize seven auxiliary chapters to secure membership. Following is a list of the several auxiliaries with the territory assigned to each:

**AURORA:** Aurora City, Aurora Precinct, Hamilton Precinct; Secs. 1-2-11-12-13-14-23-24-25-26-35-36. Grant Precinct, Secs. 7-36.

**HORDVILLE AUXILIARY:** Bluff Precinct, Otis Precinct; Secs. 1-12.

**MARQUETTE AUXILIARY:** South Platte Precinct, North Monroe, Monroe Precinct; Secs. 1-5. Grant Precinct, Secs. 1-6. Otis Precinct, Secs. 12-36.

**PHILLIPS AUXILIARY:** Phillips Precinct, Deepwell precinct; Secs. 1-30.

**GILTNER AUXILIARY:** Scoville Precinct, Union Precinct, Hamilton Precinct; Secs. 27-34.

**MURPHY AUXILIARY:** Monroe Precinct; Secs. 6-36; Hamilton Precinct, Secs. 2-27.

**STOCKHAM AUXILIARY:** Orville Precinct, Farmers Valley Precinct.

**HAMPTON AUXILIARY:** Beaver Precinct, Valley Precinct.

#### DR. J. M. WOODARD FIRST TO GO

In May Dr. James M. Woodard decided to offer his services to the government, in the medical corps, and following that decision went to Lincoln early the next week to take the physical and mental examinations. He enlisted subject to the call of the United States surgeon general.

The Aurora press quoted the following at the time of his departure: "Dr. James Woodard is one of the best known young physicians in this section of the state and has a wide practice, which has been acquired through close application to the work of his profession and keeping abreast of the times. He was graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 1907 and has actively engaged in the work ever since, being associated with his father, Dr. D. S. Woodard.

He served with the Nebraska Guard, in the Fifth Regiment, ten years, having enlisted as a private and retiring from the service with the rank of Captain."

#### COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

The Hamilton County council of defense was organized in the district court room on May 26th, at a meeting with some seventy-five or eighty people present. John A. Whitmore was elected president and vice-chairman and committeemen were elected from the various precincts, the name of the vice-chairman appearing first: Bluff: Aaron Blomquist, Ernest W. Hahn; Otis: Ira Bush, Edwin H. Sayles; South Platte: W. O. Eichelberger, D. E. Seiver; Monroe: Theo. Nordgren, A. Lewis; Grant: Gust Peterson, W. W. Foss; Valley: S. C. Houghton, Jno. M. Peterson; Phillips: D. Sorenson, Arthur Peterson; Deepwell: Jno. R. Cooper, Geo. Dixon; Hamilton: Warren Jeffers, Lee Garrett; Aurora: Frank Rundle, A. L. Entrekin; Beaver: L. D. Camp, M. C. Condon; Farmers Valley: Perry Reed, Wm. Dodds; Orville: Robt. Laurie, Andrew Grosshans; Union: Charles Wagner, Charles Thompson; Scoville: M. Pressler, Elliott Snider. Aurora City: (a) First Ward, Geo. L. Burr, Emil Johnson. (b) Second Ward, M. F. Stanley, Harry Toof, (c) Third Ward, C. M. Grosvenor, C. C. Dobbs.

Arthur S. Nelson was elected secretary by unanimous vote upon motion of C. M. Grosvenor.

The names of C. W. Wood, Chas. S. Brown, Geo. Wanek and T. R. Work were proposed for treasurer. The balloting resulted: Wood, 19, Brown, 10; Wanek, 1; Work, 3. Mr. Wood was declared elected treasurer.

A big patriotic meeting was held in Aurora on Saturday, June 30th. The order of march in the parade and the program were as follows:

Uncle Sam himself was impersonated by G. P. Hagerman of Ravenna, a Civil War Veteran of the 20th New York regiment.

Burkett Drum Corps from Grand Island Soldiers Home; The Boy Scouts; Veterans of the G. A. R.; Woman's Relief Corps and Ladies of the G. A. R.; The Speakers and Escort; City and County Officials; Hamilton County Council of Defense; Men's Union Chorus in Patriotic Songs; Company H, Fifth Nebraska Regiment; Hamilton County Chapter Red Cross; Automobile Section—Citizens Requested to Decorate Cars.

At the close of the parade the crowd assembled in the court house park, where the following program was rendered, Hon. John A. Whitmore presiding: Music, Burkett Drum Corps; Music, Men's Union Chorus; Invocation, Rev. A. S. Beshore; Music, Men's Union Chorus; Address, Hon. R. M. Switzer of Omaha; Collection for Council of Defense; Music, Burkett Drum Corps; Music, Men's Union Chorus; Address, Mr. Donnell Gilliam, of Tarboro of North Carolina, son-in-law of W. I. Farley; Call for Volunteers; Music, Burkett Drum Corps.

On July 12, 1917, The Sun announced that Company H had reached War Strength, and commented as follows upon this remarkable response of promptness and loyalty:

"Hamilton county has just reason to be proud this morning as her people read on the company bulletin board the names of the One-hundred-fifty accepted young men who have volunteered to engage in this work for the perpetuation of democracy. She has special reason to be proud of the fact that the number of men who have volunteered is double the number that would have been required of the county under the conscription act. Added to the One-hundred-fifty names of patriotic young men who are to go with this company, is the long list of those who have entered the service with other companies, other regiments, in the artillery, the aviation corps, the officers' reserve and the few in the navy. Never did a county have a prouder record to be entered upon the pages of its history, and if full credit is to be given the county for this grand total of volunteer enlistments even a second call under the conscription act would not affect this community. It is a remarkable record and excelled by no county in the state, if in the United States, population considered. These young men come from every avenue of trade, vocation and business—from the farm, from the bank, the school-room, the store, the office, the railway service, the professions and the ranks of common labor. They are of the active, energetic and trustworthy young men who help to build communities and who are ever ready to answer the call of duty.

Late last week first lieutenant Clyde Widaman made a trip to Ravenna and other places in that vicinity in quest of men to complete the company roster. Although the town of Ravenna had already furnished a large number of its young men, Lieutenant Wildaman found others who without urging enlisted. A few men from other points nearby brought the company to 148 men, or within two of the goal. These were secured Tuesday and Hamilton county's

first great response to the call of her country had been made. The names added to the company roster and not heretofore published are as follows: J. Long, A. Plummer, C. A. Jones, B. A. Kirkpatrick, L. M. Shultz, J. A. Chamberlin, J. Ambrose, L. Margritz, J. Rupp, E. Frasier, R. H. Jacks, George Tibbetts, C. V. Graves, W. A. Street, N. Dishman, M. R. Westlake, L. J. Ambrose, B. C. Reese, N. Robiison, E. P. Olson, P. R. Deboer.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY LEADS THEM ALL.

The Sun proudly recounted Hamilton County's response in more detail as follows: "Time and again during the past six weeks the Sun has called attention to the fact that Hamilton county was enlisting more men for military service than any other county in the state of anything like its population. This newspaper has felt assured all of the time that this county was in the lead of all others, basing our belief upon the reports that came from other sections of the state from day to day and our certain knowledge of the steady march of our young men into the ranks of duty. It has been known all of the time that Hamilton county was furnishing two men to one as compared with many of the counties of double its population and four or five to one as compared with some of them. Until today, however, there have been no actual figures obtainable in the matter. Now that the figures are made public, showing that we have furnished more than our quota of men in all the departments of service, and that Hamilton county is to be exempt from the first call under the conscription act, we can pause and review the great and splendidly patriotic record with pardonable pride and justifiable enthusiasm.

Governor Keith Neville was the first to disclose this remarkable record and apprise the public of what Hamilton county has done. That the Governor was not looking for any such record in the state is shown by the fact that his accountants were making up the draft apportionment for the various counties and had Hamilton county in the list until the discovery was made that we had furnished more men than the quota allotted to us under the draft. This necessitated a revision of all the figures, after eliminating Hamilton county, and caused some delay in finishing the work, since the figures of the other counties have to be changed. Here is the story that the daily press carried out to the people of the United States yesterday morning. This story on the wings of the press, was carried to millions of people everywhere. This is the first time in its history that Hamilton county has been called upon to respond with an army in time of war. It is one of the epoch marking periods in the history of the county, and this morning the people all over the land know how proudly we have given an account of ourselves. Read the story, then raise your hat proudly and reverently in recognition of the record of the best county in Nebraska—Hamilton county, "first in peace, first in war" and first in all of our hearts this morning.

Hamilton county, Nebraska, enjoys the unique distinction of having already furnished more men for the military service of the United States, including the regular army, the national guard, and officers' training camps than it is required to furnish under the selective draft law.

It is the one county in the state where voluntary enlistments and applications

for reserve officers' commissions exceed in number the quota allotted to it by the war department.

The selective draft apportionment fixes Hamilton county's apportionment at One-hundred-forty-five men and a fraction. There have been already enlisted or otherwise volunteered from that county one hundred fifty-one men. The County thus has a credit for 5.54 men over and above the draft requirement.

This means that in making the draft Hamilton county will not be included. The exact surplus of 5.54 men will be credited on a decimal fraction basis to the other counties, and in half a dozen cases they will be called upon to furnish one less man than otherwise.

The gross quota for Nebraska, as originally fixed, is 13,900. It happened, however, that the Hawaiian Islands enlisted 1,990 more men than their selective draft quota, and out of that number Nebraska gets a credit of twenty-four. The number of men enlisted in the army and the national guard from Nebraska is 5,691. Deducting these two items, the net quota of 8,185 remains."

It is believed that even these remarkable figures do not give Hamilton county its full credit. A number of young men have gone to other states for enlistments, several having joined the coast artillery service and other branches of the service at distant points. The total number of these is not known at this time, but there are several such. In addition to all those credited there were several volunteer enlistments, under the first call, of young men who for different reasons could not be accepted and are not in service. While for military purposes these enlistments do not count, yet they were tendered by young men in just as good faith and with the same motives that prompted those who were accepted, and in that degree are to be credited to Hamilton county. As the Sun has said before, the total of enlistments for this county will exceed 175."

#### CAMP HAMILTON.

Another account detailed by Aurora press of this period is very appropriate: "Down on one of the sightly spots in Streeter park, where on two sides the green banks slope their tree-shaded sides into Lincoln Creek and where on the other side a beautiful field of Nebraska's king corn proudly nods in the breeze is gathered a band of men such as never before in the history of Hamilton county assembled on its soil. Last Sunday when these men answered the call of their nation's bugle and lifted their tents on this grassy sunkissed point they wrote a new chapter into the history of their good county. The trees above their heads whispered the old song of freedom, the fields about them spoke of the plenty which they have helped to create and King Corn smiled back a murmured recognition as the only king which these men recognize, and in defense of which principle they are offering their service, their energies, their time and, if need be, their lives. Hamilton county has furnished soldiers before, and within her borders are many men who bear the honorable distinction of having served in the far gone days of civil strife. But this army which gathered last Sunday is the first complete unit of a fighting force ever organized and camped on Hamilton county ground in time of actual war, and the first ever to raise a flag above its camp in opposition to a foreign foe. Therefore, we say that this body of patriots has written a new chapter into our already magnificent history and one that

shall be cherished by their sires and brothers now living and by their posterity to come.

It is especially fitting that this spot should be named "Camp Hamilton," because the men who are down there drilling and sleeping beneath the flag are destined to add history to this community of which we shall all be proud. How anxiously in the weeks to come will we await news from the men now in Camp Hamilton. How every mother's heart will be atune for every word of news from the boy she has seen march away from Camp Hamilton; How every father's face will lighten when he learns of meritorious and soldierly conduct upon the part of his son, and how the entire people will rejoice at every bit of news which comes to tell that the God of War is dealing kindly with these boys. Today as we look over the beautiful spot called Camp Hamilton and watch the sturdy young men in the active pursuit of what to them is a new and strange vocation, we strive to peer into the future and discern what is in store for them— but in vain. Today no man knows where the call of duty may lead them and no man may know the story they shall write into the State's history before they shall return to the spot from which they are soon to take their leave. We can only hope that officers and men will alike perform their whole duty; that the record which they are eventually to complete will be one well worth a shining page in history's book and that the God of War may lead their steps through paths of safety, in the walks of honor, to the goal of success and back in life and health to those who today are sending them forth with a Godspeed and blessing."

#### RED CROSS WAR FUND.

At a meeting held in July at the home of Mayor Farley the first step in the organization of that work was taken. Representatives of the Red Cross from all parts of the county were at this meeting and there was complete unison of action upon all matters taken up. The dates fixed for raising the Hamilton county apportionment of the war fund were the last two days of July and the first four days of August. The committees consisted of the following named persons:

Aurora District—J. A. Isaman, T. E. Williams, C. S. Brown, W. I. Farley, Clark Perkins, Geo. Wanek, G. L. Burr, C. M. Grosvenor, J. D. M. Buekner, Rev. Isakson, T. B. Johnson and D. A. Johnson.

Hampton District—J. M. Cox, S. C. Houghton and John Peterson.

Stockham District—C. L. Riker, Robert McCullough and Jesse Salmon.

Marquette District—D. E. Seiver, Ira Bush and J. J. Refshauge.

Hordville District—Aaron Blomquist, P. J. Refshauge, Charles Campbell.

Phillips District—C. P. Horn, E. H. Yerkes, E. C. Huxtable.

Murphy District—M. E. Isaacson, Abe Lewis, Enoch Oberg.

Giltner District—F. C. Wheeler, J. C. Bierbower, R. L. Purdy.

Advertising and Publicity Committee—Clark Perkins, G. L. Burr, C. M. Grosvenor.

The district designated for each committee is the same respectively, as announced for Red Cross several weeks ago. Publicity campaign week provides committees for each district to formulate their own method of conducting campaign for systematic canvas of each district.

The apportionment of moneys to be raised in the several districts is as follows:

Stockham District .....	\$ 1,000.00
Giltner .....	1,500.00
Hampton .....	1,800.00
Murphy .....	600.00
Phillips .....	1,200.00
Marquette .....	2,500.00
Hordville .....	900.00
Aurora .....	8,000.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$17,500.00</b>

Hordville was the one district in the entire county which entered the campaign with its money already raised. At a meeting of the Aurora committee, held at the office of J. A. Isaman an organization was affected for systematic work. T. B. Johnson was made chairman of the district organization, Clark Perkins was made secretary and J. A. Isaman treasurer.

Clark Perkins, George L. Burr and Charles M. Grosvenor were named as a committee on publicity, to have entire charge of the advertising, correspondence and news service of the campaign in the county. A committee was appointed to compile the tax list for property valuations. That committee was composed of J. A. Isaman, D. A. Johnson and C. M. Grosvenor.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY'S BANNER

The handsome flag flying from the staff in the court house park was presented to Company H by T. E. Williams and formally turned over to the people of Hamilton county by Captain Otis M. Newman on behalf of Company H, which he commanded. The ceremony occurred in Memorial Park, west of the court house. Company H attended in a body and that section of the park was filled by a large crowd of citizens, the most interested attention being given to every detail of the program.

Neither Mayor Farley nor Mr. Williams, the donor of the flag, could be present. Captain Newman presided and expressed his gratitude to the donor of the flag, briefly stated the purpose of the meeting and introduced Corporal Brill to speak for Company H.

Corporal Brill, who is a minister in the United Brethren church, and whose home is Broken Bow, is already a popular man among the boys of the company.

A wonderful address was delivered by Judge Stark on this memorable occasion. A lifelong patriot of the highest type, the father of an only son who has twice responded to the call of his country, a former judge advocate and friend of the National Guard, and with a fatherly concern for every soldier Hamilton has furnished, he rose on this occasion to the sublime heights of eloquence.

#### THE FIRST SPLENDID DONATION

Mr. T. E. Williams, a member of the Red Cross War Fund Committee for the Aurora district, when informed by members of the committee of the plan



outlined for the work of raising funds, at once suggested that the amount which under the proposed levy he would pay was not large enough to suit himself nor Mrs. Williams. Mr. Williams then authorized the committee to place his name and that of Mrs. Williams on the list for a joint subscription of \$500.00.

#### WOMAN'S WORK IS ORGANIZED

As the result of a tour in August of the county made by Mrs. T. E. Williams, county chairman of the woman's auxiliary of the Nebraska State Council of Defense, accompanied by her husband and John A. Whitmore, chairman of the County Council of Defense, and daughter, Miss Laura Whitmore, the first steps toward an effective organization were taken in the selection of the following officers and executive council:

Chairman, Mrs. Thomas E. Williams; secretary, Mrs. Clark Perkins; treasurer, Mrs. G. L. Burr; Stockham, Mrs. M. E. Coon; Marquette, Mrs. W. O. Eichelberger; Hampton, Mrs. Effie W. Gelow; Phillips, Mrs. George Horn; Hordville, Mrs. P. J. Refshauge; Giltner, Mrs. Myrtle Jackette; Aurora, Mrs. F. E. Edgerton, Mrs. A. G. Peterson, Miss Laura E. Whitmore.

#### THE HOME GUARD

The Home Guard Company was organized at a meeting held in Aurora August 20, 1917. Those who first enrolled to serve under Captain Clark Perkins, First Lieutenant Myrl Mather and Second Lieutenant Joseph R. Peters were: S. G. Abercrombie, A. W. Hickman, C. A. Peterson, Frank A. Burt, W. E. Lounsbury, T. E. Williams, Clyde E. Eiseley, W. G. Ward, Geo. W. Baird, C. E. Neir, Thomas O'Neil, A. B. Cowley, F. L. McCarty, Clark Perkins, Lou A. Morris, W. O. Eichelberger, Joseph R. Peters, Frank E. Quinn, Harold Boberg, E. A. DeWaters, Austin L. Higby, Robert M. Mitchell, E. S. Johnson, D. A. Johnson, G. C. Eaton, G. Anawalt, T. A. Harrison, F. C. Mather, G. W. McDougal, Bert Foss, L. A. Pfost, A. L. Burr, Ross Leymaster, M. F. Stanley, Oscar Gunnarson, George Wanek, W. J. Lozier, E. B. Arnold, C. M. Grosvenor, Frank Boyland, C. W. Wentz, Richard W. Hogg, J. H. Grosvenor, J. W. Spray, J. F. Cole, T. M. Scott, Myrl S. Mather, Henry V. Nelson, Fred Jeffers, C. W. Wood, Millard F. Green, Jas. Christopheale, S. N. Peterson, Alek Carlson, F. C. Miller, F. A. Thomas, B. O. Bergeson, Joe Egerstrom, J. D. M. Buckner, W. E. Copeland, W. I. Farley, John G. Davis, L. W. Weikel, John F. Powell, E. O. Price, Robert Hedgecock, Peter Hedlund, Jas. E. Schoonover.

#### COMPANY H'S DEPARTURE

On Friday, September 14, 1917, the final good-byes were said by the people of Hamilton County to their beloved Company H.

At six o'clock the long line formed on the north side of the square, where the final roll call before departure was taken. Captain Newman, First Lieutenant Earl Dorland, Second Lieutenant Clyde Widaman and one hundred and forty-eight enlisted men were in the line, Privates Spencer and Schultz both being too ill to respond or accompany the command.

On the opposite side of the street and facing the men of Company H were stationed the men of the home guard company, under command of Captain Perkins. The company had been called out the night before for the first drill, and reported at 6:30 Friday morning to escort the soldiers to the station. Eighty of these men were in line and many of them had sons in the ranks of the men just in front of them.

At 6:30 the whistle at the Aurora Electric Company plant blew the long call and a few minutes later the men fell into marching order and filed down the streets toward the Burlington. The home guards company, as special escort, lead the march to the station, Old Glory at the head of the column, the men in khaki in close formation behind.

#### THE ABANDONED CAMP

After a visit to the spot on the day of the departure of Company H, Friday, September 14, 1917, J. H. Grosvenor penned the following lines to the men of Camp Hamilton:

I have heard their bngle calling  
 When the evening sun was low;  
 I have felt the darkness falling  
 About their campfire's glow.

I have heard their youthful laughter  
 As they marched, or played, or drilled;  
 I have felt their "soul-glow" after  
 My vision has been filled.

I have heard the valiant war oath,  
 From the lips of dauntless youth;  
 I have felt as one who knoweth,  
 Their courage, worth and truth.

I have heard their sturdy foot-falls  
 On their eager march away;  
 I have felt the sorrow that enthalls,  
 Hallowing that camp today.

I have heard the silence broken,  
 Round that camp-ground in the glen,  
 By woman's sob, love's token,  
 Wailing for our gallant men.

I have heard the war wind calling  
 "Onward" to our flesh and blood;  
 I have felt the darkness palling,  
 Over Death's all-whelming flood.

I have heard, as though in slumber,  
 Their returning ranks march home;  
 I have felt, "Each has God's number,"  
 Wheresoever called to roam.

#### WOMEN'S REGISTRATION

There were 1,526 women over sixteen years of age in the county who showed by registering their names their desire to "do their bit" for their country in its crisis. Following are the number who registered from each precinct: Aurora, 78; Beaver, 26; Bluff, 56; Deepwell, 47; Farmers Valley, 15; Grant, 51; Hamilton, 41; Monroe, 47; Orville, 53; Otis, 40; Phillips, 65; Scoville, 41; South Platte, 125; Union, 59; Valley, 182; Aurora City: First ward, 202; Second ward, 174; Third ward, 217, a total of 1,519. In addition to these there were seven non-residents who registered in Hamilton county.

The committeemen for the different precincts were: Aurora, Mrs. S. B. Otto; Beaver, Mrs. Theodore Paschke; Bluff, Mrs. P. J. Refshauge; Farmers Valley, Mrs. Perry Reed; Hamilton, Mrs. William Sautter; Monroe, Miss Ella Johnson; Orville, Mrs. M. E. Coon; Phillips, Mrs. George Horn; Otis, Mrs. Ira Bush; South Platte, Mrs. W. O. Eichelberger; Union, Rev. R. L. Purdy; Valley, Mrs. Effie Gelow; First ward, Aurora, Miss Laura Whitmore; Second ward, Mrs. M. F. Stanley; Third ward, Miss Elsie Chidester.

#### WOMEN'S LIBERTY LOAN

The precinct chairmen and officers of the Women's Auxiliary, Council of Defense, who solicited actively for the sale of Liberty Bonds, included the following: Aurora, Mrs. S. B. Otto; Beaver, Mrs. Theodore Paschke; Bluff, Mrs. P. J. Refshauge; Deepwell, Mrs. T. W. Cavett; Farmers Valley, Mrs. Perry Reed; Hamilton, Mrs. William Sautter; Orville, Mrs. M. E. Coon; Phillips, Mrs. George Horn; Scoville, Mrs. William Case; South Platte, Mrs. W. O. Eichelberger; Union, Miss Mabel Wilson; Valley, Mrs. Effie Gelow; Aurora City, First ward, Miss Laura Whitmore; Second ward, Mrs. F. E. Edgerton; Third ward, Miss Elsie Chidester; Mrs. T. E. Williams, Mrs. G. L. Burr, Mrs. Clark Perkins, Mrs. A. G. Peterson, Liberty Loan Committee; Mrs. T. E. Williams, County Chairman.

#### Y. M. C. A. DRIVE STARTED

Hamilton county, which was one of the five in its district, was well represented at a Y. M. C. A. district meeting held at York, Tuesday night, November 6, and Judge Stark was one of the three principal speakers. The meeting was attended by one hundred and forty delegates from this district and of these Hamilton county furnished twenty-eight. It was the best represented county in the district, save York, where the meeting was held.

The apportionment for the county according to precincts and population in 1910:

Precinct.	Population.	Amount.
Farmers Valley .....	452x23e	\$103.96
Orville .....	760x23e	174.80
Union .....	1032x23e	237.36
Seoville .....	460x23e	105.80
Beaver .....	472x23e	108.56
Aurora .....	684x23e	157.32
Hamilton .....	528x23e	121.44
Deepwell .....	552x23e	126.96
Valley .....	1072x23e	246.56
Grant .....	644x23e	148.12
Monroe .....	776x23e	178.48
Phillips .....	588x23e	135.24
Otis .....	692x23e	159.16
South Platte .....	1160x23e	266.80
Bluff .....	768x23e	176.64
City of Aurora:		
First ward .....	1040x23e	239.20
Second ward .....	912x23e	209.76
Third ward .....	868x23e	199.64

Population, 13,460; apportionment, \$3,095.80.

The main speaker of the evening was District Judge H. S. Dungan of Hastings. Congressman Charles H. Sloan of Geneva and Judge W. L. Stark of Aurora both made good talks calculated to send the delegations home to their various counties full of enthusiasm and courage for the raising of these funds.

#### THE "HONOR ROLL" BEGINS

News of the death of another Hamilton county soldier reached this community, October 9th. Theodore John Peterson, of Monroe precinct, being the third victim of the Spanish influenza from this county to die at Camp Grant, Illinois. He was a son of the late Charles Anderson of Monroe and was survived by the mother, one brother and six sisters. His father died just about a year before, following a surgical operation in Chicago.

Theodore was twenty-eight years of age and went to Camp Grant on the 6th of September. The mother and one of her daughters had started to the camp on receipt of the news of his illness, but upon reaching Omaha word of his death awaited them.

Reports reached this city soon afterwards that Jess Ummel, son of the late Eli Ummel, of near Phillips, had died at Camp Dodge, Iowa, of Spanish influenza, the first Hamilton county victim to be reported from that camp. His father died a few weeks before and he had been at home on a furlough at that time.

Soon thereafter news reached Aurora of the death of Melvin Marney, one of the young men who left Hamilton county in June and who was with the men

who went to Camp Funston. The men left Aurora on Friday, June 28th, and it was just about one week later, according to the reports, that young Marney died in a hospital there.

He had been employed in the county and registered there under the draft.

#### LESTER HARTER DIES IN BATTLE

Fighting gallantly for his country and surrounded by a swarm of enemy battle planes, Lester Harter, youngest living son of Mrs. Esther A. McKay of this city, made the supreme sacrifice and died gloriously for the cause of freedom on the German front September 18.

Lester Harter enlisted in the aviation branch of the service from Keokuk, Iowa, where he had been engaged in the auto business. He enlisted early in the war and left for France fourteen months previous to his death. After his term in the training camps he was sent to the front and had seen much exciting service since that time.

After the American army became so active on the front, Lester had done an immense amount of bombing work and had earned the admiration of his friends in the service for his coolness and daring, as is attested by letters from them. Mrs. Andrew Grosshans of Aurora is a sister, and his brothers, J. J. and Harry, live near Stockham. His father was the late Jacob Harter, whose widow became the wife of former county commissioner T. A. McKay. His action in writing his name upon a slip of paper while his plane was falling, to insure identification, probably established a worthy precedent in aeronautical affairs.

Paul M. French died at Camp Pike, Arkansas, on Saturday, October 12, 1919. He entered the service from Cotner University and was in the officers' training department at the time of his death, which resulted from pneumonia. A lieutenant's commission would have been his reward for his apt learning and discipline some time in November.

Paul was a devoted Christian, being a student in the Theological Department of Cotner University and a very intimate friend of Rev. C. C. Dobbs of Aurora.

#### DIED WHILE FACING THE HUN

Just as the first great tide of rejoicing over the close of the war was sweeping over the community and just as hearts everywhere were assuming new hope for the return of their loved ones, the tragic war messenger sped his way to Aurora and planted the ineffaceable mark of sorrow in one of its best known homes.

November 12, shortly after the hour of eight, a message from Major Harris came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Day, announcing the death of their youngest son, Robert J., from wounds received while in action. The date of his death was given as October 10th.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

A large audience was present on Sunday evening, November 10, 1918, in the United Brethren church at the Memorial service of Eldred Dusenberry. Mr.

Clark Perkins gave a well worded and concise tribute based on the words of Captain Newman, who praised Private Dusenberry as one of the most exact in detail of drill. Rev. C. C. Dobbs led in the Memorial prayer as all reverently stood in silent tribute. Rev. Heberly sang the solo, "The Little Blue Star in that Window That Changed to Gold," and spoke on the United War Campaign, using Daniel Poling's book, "Huts in Hell," for illustrations of the work done for the boys.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY WENT OVER IN FOURTH LOAN DRIVE

Although the kaiser and his clan were sending peace talk statements over the land, influenza was reaching its destroying hand over the country and Hamilton county had lost its big corn crop—all of this did not deter the people from carrying on in the most magnificent assault against the Hun which the county has ever been called upon to make. It was one great united attack upon the common enemy and there was never a rest until it had been finished. And, like the boys over there, the people at home were not satisfied with reaching the objective, but pushed on far beyond. Accordingly the people of Hamilton county in a few days' time subscribed the Fourth Liberty Loan quota of \$850,000.00 and exceeded the amount by almost eight per cent.

Each bank's quota and the amount subscribed was as follows:

Aurora:	Quota.	Subscribed.
Farmers State Bank .....	\$ 90,250	\$ 94,000
Fidelity National Bank .....	118,250	140,600
First National Bank .....	117,750	118,000
American State Bank .....	11,000	11,500
Giltner:		
Citizens Bank .....	45,000	47,100
Giltner State Bank .....	42,500	78,300
Hampton:		
First National Bank .....	75,250	55,700
Farmers State Bank .....	56,500	56,750
Hordville:		
First State Bank .....	43,750	47,350
Marquette:		
Farmers State Bank .....	29,750	37,900
First National Bank .....	80,250	80,250
Murphy:		
First State Bank .....	32,750	36,300
Phillips:		
Bank of Phillips .....	41,000	33,550
Stockham:		
Stockham State Bank .....	35,250	44,000
Total .....	\$820,250	\$881,300

## OTHER HONOR ROLL NAMES

Another sad war message came when a telegram came to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wolff of Aurora announcing the death of their son, Verne O., in France from wounds received in action. The message as delivered to the parents read as follows:

"Washington, D. C., October 9, 1918.

"Fred Wolff, Aurora: Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private Verne O. Wolff, infantry, died August 30th from wounds received in action.

"HARRIS, Acting Adj. Gen."

Verne was a young man well known in Aurora, where for a long time he was in the employ of the Peter Hedlund grocery. He was among the first to enlist in Company H and was the first young man of that company to lose his life from wounds received in battle.

Just one month from the day of his arrival at Camp Grant, Illinois, Clarence Earl Kenney, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kenney, of Aurora, gave up his life—the second Hamilton county victim of influenza and pneumonia in that camp. Clarence left for the Illinois camp on September 6, the same day and in the same car with Clarence E. Bute, the first Hamilton county victim, and Theodore John Peterson, who died in that camp about October 4th.

Reports of the death of another well known young man at the Lincoln camp came soon thereafter, Reuben Franklin Larson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Larson of this city, having died of pneumonia the night before. Reuben was twenty-two years of age and went to the Lincoln training camp on the 15th of August. His parents bought the C. E. Neir property in the Third ward some time before then.

## FOOD COMMISSION NAMED

Immediately after his return from a conference with Food Administrator Wattles at Omaha, A. W. Hickman completed the county food organization by the appointment of the following committeemen:

General, John A. Whitmore, chairman county council of defense; F. A. Burt, A. Grosshans, Glenn Anawalt, J. S. Isaman; Hampton, N. Peterson; Stockham, E. A. McVey; Giltner, Fred Burr; Phillips, T. E. Nordgren; Marquette, Harry Orbin; Hordville, A. Blomquist.

The familiar food price lists published weekly can be preserved by the following example of one of these interesting mandates.

Fair prices recommended for Hamilton county by price committee, Federal Food Administration for Nebraska:

Sugar, per lb. ....	\$ .10
Flour, No. 1 Patent, 24-lb. sack .....	1.50
48-lb. sack .....	3.00
No. 2 Patent, 24-lb. sack .....	1.45
48-lb. sack .....	2.90

Corn meal, 6-lb. sack .....	8 35
12-lb. sack .....	.70
Nebraska potatoes, best No. 1, per bu.....	1.60
No. 2 .....	1.50
Butter, No. 1 creamery, per lb.....	.50
No. 1 country, per lb.....	.45
No. 2 country, per lb.....	.38
Eggs, No. 1, fresh, per doz.....	.45
Rice, No. 1, in bulk, per lb.....	.12½
Oatmeal, No. 1, large pkg.....	.30
No. 2, large pkg.....	.25
Pure lard, packing house, per lb., No. 1.....	.33
Compound, per lb., No. 1.....	.25
Beans, navy, No. 1, per lb.....	.13
Pinto, No. 1, per lb.....	.15
Bread, 16-oz. loaf.....	.10
24-oz. loaf .....	.15
32-oz., loaf .....	.20
Rye and graham bread, same as wheat.	

#### GILTNER HOME GUARDS ORGANIZE

The meeting held at the high school auditorium Monday evening, January 28th for the purpose of organizing a company of home guards was productive of good results, thirty-six signing the muster roll and taking the oath required for members. The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Weisel and he was elected temporary as well as permanent chairman. Joseph Heganbart was elected captain, Nels Le Baron, first lieutenant and O. E. Bedell second lieutenant.

#### OTHER DEATHS IN SERVICE

Elmer A. Fox, volunteer in the United States aviation service, the third young soldier of Hamilton county to give up his life under the flag of his country and the first from the city of Aurora, was given the fullest military honors, when an impressive funeral service was held at the Christian church in this city. The following tribute was paid by the Aurora press:

"Elmer Fox was among the large number of Hamilton county young men who ranked high in the spirit of true patriotism. When he learned through his home physician that he was not able physically to pass the rigid examination required for service on the firing line and in the trenches he sought other means of serving his country, and naturally turned to that department which seemed to offer the most opportunity for the exercise of the talents which he possessed. Being a mechanic of skill, he applied for service in the non-flying branch of the aviation corps and was accepted."

Another press tribute to another Hamilton county "gold star" was as follows:

"No more shocking news could possibly have come to the people of this county than the message which brought report of the death of Harry F. Gunnerson. His death occurred at the naval hospital at Ellis Island, from diphtheria.



“Harry Gunnerson was member of one of Hamilton county’s best families, and himself a capable and high class young man. He was born on the home farm near Marquette twenty-eight years ago, where he grew to manhood and acquired his education. He was for some time connected with The Farmers State Bank at Marquette and during that time was the Sun correspondent for that town. Later he went to Oregon and was employed in banks at Madras and Mount Hood, being in one of these institutions about a year.”

#### TOM CORDY GIVES UP HIS LIFE

Tom Cordy was the first young man enlisting from Hamilton county to give up his life in the service of the country. He came to Aurora in the spring of 1917, to take a position as meat cutter in the Hockenbary & Miller market. He was a young man of high capability and pleasing personality. He was somewhat retiring in disposition, but earned and retained the friendship of many Aurora people. He was addicted to no bad habits, was a trustworthy employe in all respects and commanded a good salary. Always of gentlemanly and polite demeanor, he was accorded a friendly place with many of our best young people.

Tom was one of the Hamilton county registrants for military service. Meanwhile he was making the plans for enlistment in some branch of the service. Four weeks ago he, with a number of other Aurora young men, went to Omaha for the purpose of enlisting. He was accepted at the army recruiting station and that same evening was started on a troop train for Fort Logan, Colorado, there to receive his further assignment to duty.

#### ALLEN HUTSELL DIES AT CODY

Just as the large audience at the Presbyterian church was being dismissed at the patriotic meeting on a Sunday evening a messenger came to announce the death of Allen W. Hutsell, which had occurred at Camp Cody, New Mexico, early that morning. The message of death had reached the father and brothers at Hampton earlier in the day.

Allen W. Hutsell, son of Urias Hutsell, was among the earliest and the youngest of the volunteers in Company H last summer and spent the latter weeks at Camp Hamilton before the company went south. The initial move toward the recruiting of the company was on April 10th and the records show that he enlisted on the 12th of that month. He became twenty-one years of age in August following. His mother died some years ago. He leaves three brothers—Milton, who is married; Lloyd, who was drafted at Bayard and is now at Camp Funston, and Ray, who is at home.

At a meeting of the County Council of Defense, Tuesday, February 26, the organization of the Production and Conservation Committee for Hamilton county was completed. County Chairman John A. Whitmore had previously named Hon. W. I. Farley as chairman of this organization, and in brief statement Mr. Farley said that his own business and interests would be made secondary to those of the county and nation, and that he would spare neither time nor effort in doing his full share of the work. At that meeting the personnel of the organization was made complete and is as follows: Chairman, W. I. Farley;

vice chairman, Emil S. Johnson; secretary, A. B. Cole; treasurer, Chas. W. Wood; precinct chairman, Bluff, P. J. Refshauge; South Platte, J. M. Shaneyfelt; Otis, Ira Bush; Valley, Herm Cox; Beaver, Dietrich Quiring; Farmers Valley, F. C. Dick; Orville, J. E. Roe; Aurora, Frank Lysinger; Grant, H. N. Otto; Monroe, Henry Berggren; Hamilton, Jay Perry; Union, Chas. Harrod; Scoville, M. Pressler; Deepwell, George Dixon; Phillips, J. R. Cooper.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY IS GENEROUS

J. R. Davidson, who was chairman of the Hamilton county Y. M. C. A. war fund drive and who exerted himself to the uttermost to put the move over the top, received the following letter of appreciation from District Chairman C. C. Smith. It will be noted that in the campaign this district, of which Hamilton county is a part, the apportionment allotted was almost doubled.

"Exeter, Nebraska, February 15, 1918.

"Mr. J. R. Davidson,

"Chairman, Hamilton County Y. M. C. A. War Fund,

"Aurora, Nebraska.

"Dear Mr. Davidson: I am in receipt of your letter of February 11th, enclosing check for \$103.96, which added to \$3,764.08 received from you January 15th, makes a total of \$3,868.04 received from Hamilton county.

"On behalf of the state committee and our soldier boys in the training camps and at the front, I want to thank you and your fellow workers and all the givers in Hamilton county for their generous help in this splendid work.

"Every county and nearly every community in this district, including the counties of Hamilton, Polk, York, Fillmore and Thayer, has exceeded its apportionment, so that instead of the \$16,500.00 asked for from the district, we now have a total of \$30,574.68 in cash paid and \$800.00 in pledges.

"Very truly yours,

"C. C. SMITH, Chairman 12th District."

#### BIG STAMP DRIVE

The Aurora Sun described Hamilton county's response to this call:

"Since America took over the contract to pacify the kaiser nearly a year ago Nebraska and Hamilton county have been called upon to make some big drives, and in every instance the call has been met by a one hundred per cent answer and better. Hamilton county stands out with a proud record of having exceeded its requirements in every instance, from the enlisting of men for service all down the line of war activity. On March 22nd this good old county registered again and placed her credit marks high at the masthead of patriotic endeavor. The big War Savings Stamp drive has been made. The people of the county have poured forth their dollars for Uncle Sam's use in unstinted measure—they have loaned their government many thousands of dollars more than had been asked, and the end is not yet.

"March 22 was the day fixed by proclamation for the big drive, and meetings were held in all the school districts of the state. The afternoon of that day was a holiday. Schools were dismissed and business houses were closed until late in

the evening, giving everybody, employer and employe, the chance to attend the meetings, buy stamps and encourage others to do so. Yale B. Huffman of the First National Bank was the chairman of the drive for Hamilton county, and days before the big drive had his organization perfected and ready. Today he is one of the best pleased men in the county. He had to neglect his own business and he is tired, but the results more than compensate for these things, and he is satisfied.

"Hamilton county's quota of stamp sales was \$271,000.00 based upon its population. The reports are not complete, a few of the districts not having reported, but the amount already reported shows that the county has gone approximately \$60,000.00 beyond its quota. Almost every district in the county exceeded the quota allotted. Every district in which there was a town went far beyond the quota. In the city of Aurora the quota was \$60,000.00. The amount subscribed was \$65,000.00.

"Giltner rounded out the day with her quota doubled and Hampton went \$5,000.00 beyond the mark. Comparative figures for the other towns of the county are not at hand, but all of them went over and beyond their allotted amounts. The total subscriptions reported to Chairman Huffman up to this time, which includes all purchases and subscriptions for stamps from the beginning of the campaign and to the close of the drive, is \$320,170.00. Estimating that the eight districts from which reports have not been received will have a total of \$10,000.00, the grand total for the county will reach \$330,000.00, or about \$60,000 more than the amount which Hamilton county was asked to subscribe. The estimates for the eight districts not reported is low, so the county will have easily gone more than twenty per cent above its mark."

#### AURORA LIBERTY LOAN CANVASS

For a canvass of the residence section of the city made for the sale of Liberty Bonds. Dr. J. D. M. Buckner, chairman of the soliciting committee had appointed the following men to assist him: J. K. Hartnell, E. S. Johnson, N. S. Brown, O. F. Arnold, C. M. Johns, George Hammond, D. W. Call, R. L. Ahara, Dick Hogg, William Rutherford and J. H. Murphy.

The city was districted for these workers, so that the canvass be made in the shortest time and with the greatest thoroughness.

#### HAMILTON COUNTY'S FIGHTERS

Partial list of soldiers and sailors who helped win the war against extension of autoeracy:

##### STARS OF GOLD

Clarence Earl Bute, Hampton, died of Spanish influenza at Camp Grant, Ill., October 2, 1918.

Thomas Cordy, Aurora, died January 5, 1918, of pneumonia, at Fort Logan, Colo.

Robert J. Day, Aurora (Co. H), died of wounds received in action in France October 10, 1918.

Harold Allan Dance, Aurora, died of pneumonia in France October 19, 1918.  
Eldred Anthony Dusenberry, Aurora (Co. H), died of pneumonia in France September 19, 1918.

Elmer Anderson Fox, Aurora, died of lung fever at Fort Sam Houston, Texas., January 19, 1918.

Harry Fritiof Gunnison, Aurora, died of diphtheria at Ellis Island, N. Y., March 16, 1918.

Lester S. Harter, Aurora, first lieutenant aviation, killed in action in France September 18, 1918.

Allen Wilbur Hutsell, Hampton (Co. H), died of spinal meningitis at Camp Cody, N. M., January 13, 1918.

Clarence Earl Kenney, Aurora, died of Spanish influenza at Camp Grant, Ill., October 6, 1918.

Rubin Franklin Larson, Aurora, died of Spanish influenza at radio school, Lincoln, Nebr., October 9, 1918.

Theodore John Peterson, Marquette, died of Spanish influenza at Camp Grant, Ill., October 9, 1918.

Jesse Ummel, Phillips, died of Spanish influenza at Camp Meigs, Washington, D. C., October 9, 1918.

Verne O. Wolff, Aurora (Co. H), died of wounds received in action in France August 30, 1918.

#### CAPTAINS

E. M. Burr, Aurora, France; I. W. Haughey, Aurora, medical corps, Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga.; O. M. Newman, Aurora (Co. H), development battalion, Camp Cody, N. M.; J. M. Woodard, Aurora, medical corps, Pieron (Little Rock), Ark.

#### LIEUTENANTS

Elgie Curtis Bute (Co. H), Hampton, battalion adjutant, Camp MacArthur, Texas; Ivan M. Bengtson (Co. H), Hordville, Camp Merritt, N. J.; Ralph E. Cox, Hamilton (Co. H), Camp MacArthur, Texas; Merlin Cozier, aviation, Rockwell Field, Calif.; W. E. Dorland, Aurora (Co. H), Camp Cody, N. M.; George Haworth, Aurora, aviation, Call Field, Texas; C. D. Husted, Aurora, medical corps, Rockwell Field, Calif.; Robert Archie Hall, Aurora, navy, U. S. S. St. Louis; Paul R. Kingston, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Elroy Munson, Aurora, West Point, Ky.; Louis W. Nissen, Aurora, Co. B, 350th Inf., France; John J. Nordgren, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; William F. Powers, Hampton (Co. H), Camp MacArthur, Texas; John R. Steele, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Clyde F. Widaman, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Harold Wood, Aurora, aviation, England.

#### SERGEANTS

Floyd LaVerne Gilbert, Phillips, 134th Inf., overseas; Irl Hickman, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Joseph Elmer Johnson, Aurora, field artillery, A. E. F., France; Leslie I. Alter, Aurora, Co. M, 126 Inf., France; Stacy J. Cox,

Palmer, radio school, University Place, Nebr.; George Earl Coon, Stockham, Ellington Field, Houston, Texas; Wayne H. Denning, Giltner, Camp Dix, N. J.; Ernest D. Lefever, Stockham, special veteran service, Camp Devens, Mass.; Homer O. Pugh, Marquette, St. Nazarre, France; Fred B. Swanson, Aurora, medical corps, Fort Baker, Calif.; George Wilhelm Stowell, Aurora, naval hospital corps, Guam; Myrl R. Swanson, Aurora, base hospital unit, France; Carl G. Swanson, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Joseph F. Thomas, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Will H. Thomas, Aurora, France; Elwin J. Titman, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Charles M. Yerkes, Phillips, 335th field artillery, France.

## CORPORALS

Levi Anderson, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Alvin E. Blades, 339th field artillery, France; R. L. Brill, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Charles Wilmer Dyke, Aurora, quartermaster department, France; Joy P. Guilford, Marquette, Manhattan, Kan.; Henry Earl Gould, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Chauncey Allan Jones, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Walter Kenney, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; John Robert Norris, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Milo P. Schisler, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; Clifford L. Willis, Aurora (Co. H), 125th Inf., France; Elmer L. Wessman, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas;

## PRIVATES

Ransle Claude Ashbaugh, Aurora, aviation, London, England; Lars Peter Anderson, Marquette, Camp Grant, Ill.; E. Carl Arndt, Stockham, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Otto Warren Anderson, Hampton, Fort Riley, Kan.; Howard Kyle Aukerman, Aurora, France; Oscar Anderson, Hordville, navy; Hugh A. Arnold, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., France; Harry K. Blomstrand, Aurora, Inf., Camp Pike, Ark.; John Paul Berggren, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Newton C. Bretz, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Norman C. Bretz, Aurora, Camp Devens, Mass.; George William Baird, Aurora, Y. M. C. A. secretary, France; Arthur Harold Bergmark, Phillips, Manhattan, Kan.; Carl Hjalmar Benson, Hordville, Camp Grant, Ill.; Harry Edward Brandt, Phillips, Camp Grant, Ill.; Carl I. Bonekemper, Stockham, Camp Grant, Ill.; John Gus Bamesberger, Hampton, Camp Grant, Ill.; Harry Bearder, Phillips, Fort Riley, Kan.; George Lloyd Bottorf, Stockham, Kansas City, Mo.; George Bish, Harvard, Camp Dodge, Iowa; John Bayne, Stockham, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Carl Bergland, Marquette, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Charles Bradley, Phillips, Camp Dodge, Iowa; William Clay Ballard, Giltner, Fort Riley, Kan.; Byron Forrest Brown, Stockham, Lincoln, Nebr.; Basil Boyd, Aurora, Lincoln, Nebr.; George Bailey, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Robert Bailey, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Dalton Brosser Brown, Giltner, Fort Logan, Colo.; John David Bowers, Aurora, aviation corps; Harold Barr, Phillips; Gilbert Bengtson, Hordville, hospital corps, Kansas City, Mo.; G. L. Burr, jr., Aurora, navy, radio school, Newport, R. I.; Merlin Brock, Giltner, France; T. E. Brondel, Hampton (Co. H), France; Hubert F. Benson, Aurora (Co. H), France; Chester Burt, Aurora (Co. H),

France; Albert L. Budler, Hampton (Co. H), France; William Brown (Co. H), France; Louis Brown, Aurora (Co. H), France; Park E. Brigham, Aurora (Co. H), France; Otto Bomholt, Aurora (Co. H), France; Arthur Bearnth, Aurora (Co. H), France; Ed Bearnth, Aurora (Co. H), discharged for military disability; Everett Barnes, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Horace Alvin Campbell, Hordville, field artillery, France; Arthur Martin Conser, Hampton, France; LeRoy Newton Conser, Hampton, navy, England; Emerson Ora Croxen, Gilbert, Camp Grant, Ill.; Harry LaVerne, Culbertson, Aurora, Camp Grant, Ill.; Walter John Carlson, Clarks, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Ephraim Arvid Carlson, Marquette, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Leslie Cook, Marquette, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Arthur W. Cowling, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Raymond Casler, Giltner, France; John Cassell, Aurora, aviation, France; Lester I. Coxen, Aurora (Co. H), France; Allen Randall Cozier, Aurora (Co. H), France; Lafayette Cook, Aurora (Co. H), France; Dewey Chaney, Giltner (Co. H), France; August Alexie Carlson, Phillips, Camp Funston, Kan.; Lawrence Carlson, Aurora (Co. H), discharged for disability; Irvin R. Colby Marquette, Camp Johnston, Fla.; David Danielson, Aurora, Camp Fremont, Calif.; Joseph Danielson, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Ia.; Walter Scott Denel, Aurora, aviation, Kelley Field No. 12, Texas; Ernest Declifford Dawson, Giltner, Camp Funston, Kan.; Willie E. Druba, Stockham, Kansas City, Mo.; Allen Dudgeon, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; True Fred Dale, Clarks, Camp Funston, Kan.; Phillip Conrad Damoude, Aurora, France; Sam Daniels, Aurora, radio service, navy, Cambridge, Mass.; Chris Dein, Hampton, aviation; Frank Davis, Aurora, France; Charles C. Dean, Hampton, aviation; Hilbert Danes, Giltner, France; George Dodson, Giltner, France; Clyde Henry England, Phillips, Manhattan, Kan.; Henry Jacob Elwanger, Stockham, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; William Siegfried Erickson, Hordville, Kansas City, Mo.; Leo E. Eggert, Aurora, Fort Riley Kan.; Thomas C. Eaton, Aurora, Fort Riley, Kan.; Elva Eddison Dennis, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Emerson B. Evans, Aurora, aviation, Mareh Field, Calif.; John Faber, Aurora; James W. Fulton, Aurora, Kansas City, Mo.; Chester Stephen Fay, Aurora, 6th Reg. Marines, France; Allen Harry Fuller, Stockham, Camp Funston, Kan.; John Wilbur Foreman, Aurora, Kansas City, Mo.; Emil Fenster, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Erick Froseman, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; William Faber, Aurora, France; C. C. Frazier, Aurora, yeoman, navy, Great Lakes, Ill.; Vietor Fleming, Phillips, aviation, France; William Fagg, Stockham, France; Ralph Frazier, Aurora, France; Fred L. Florea, Aurora (Co. H), tank service, Tobyhanna, Pa.; Andrew Fowler, Aurora (Co. H), France; Fay Foster, Hampton (Co. H), France; Sidney A. Faith, Aurora (Co. H), France; Ray H. Gardner, Aurora (Co. H), France; Bryan Genoways, Phillips (Co. H), France; Lloyd I. Grosvenor, Aurora (Co. H), 134th Inf., overseas; M. Y. Guard, Aurora (Co. H), France; Jesse O. Guard, Aurora (Co. H), France; William Glover, Giltner, France; Rudolph Gunnerson, Aurora, coast artillery, Washington, D. C.; Max Gunnerson, Aurora, quartermaster department, France; Joe Gilson, Aurora, aviation, Ebbert Field, Ark.; Emerson Gamble, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Peter Gravengaard, Marquette, Camp Funston, Kan.; Carlisle A. Grosvenor, Aurora, balloon school, Fort Omaha; James Houek Gustafson, Phillips, Camp Funston, Kan.; M. J. Gilson, Aurora, Camp Cody, N. M.; Lawrence O.

Gunnerson, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Funston, Kan.; Albert Raymond Gingrich, Aurora, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Harry Geiger, Aurora, discharged for disability; Henry Paul Grosshans, Aurora, Manhattan, Kan.; Guy M. Guilford, Marquette, France; Ray Melvin Guilford, Marquette (Co. II), 351st Inf., overseas; Maynard Roy Gilbert, Phillips, France; Osear Leonard Gustafson, Clarks, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Harvey Hahn, Hordville, navy, Mare Island, Calif.; Harry Miller Hanger, Giltner, Manhattan, Kan.; Walter Otto William Hopp, Hampton, Camp Grant, Ill.; Kenneth Stanley Hillis, Aurora, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Mat Hefty, Stockham, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Floyd P. Harter, Aurora, Fort Riley, Kan.; George G. Hansen, Hampton, Fort Riley, Kan.; James W. Hudson, Marquette, Camp Funston, Kan.; Oliver Winthrop Hill, Harvard, Lincoln, Nebr.; Charles Melvin Horn, Hampton, Lincoln, Nebr.; Berndt O. Hagelin, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Harry R. Hunnel, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; A. Cecil Hull, Aurora, France; DeVere Horn, Hampton, yeoman, navy; Dr. Harold R. Henthorn, Aurora, veterinary reserve corps, Kansas City, Mo.; Carl Heinz, Aurora, navy; Frank Henthorn, Aurora, aviation, Fort Logan, Colo.; Dwight Husted, Aurora; Ray Harrison, Aurora, signal corps, France; Clifford Herman Giltner, France; Earl Hobbs, Giltner, France; Harlan D. Hull, Aurora (Co. II), overseas; Bruce S. Huffman, Aurora (Co. H), France; Charles Harrison, Aurora (Co. II), overseas; Arthur M. Hare, Aurora (Co. II), overseas; F. R. Hoekenbary, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Edwin E. Hansen, Hampton (Co. II), overseas; Jesse S. Hansen, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Vietor A. Hahn, Hordville (Co. II), overseas; Orville P. Haack, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Homer C. Haack, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Oliver W. Hill, Harvard, Camp Zachary Taylor, Ky.; Robert H. Hixon, Marquette (Co. H), 313th Eng. corps, France; John A. Hansen, Aurora (Co. H), France; Earl B. Herendeen, Giltner, 175th Inf., France; Harold A. Hansen, Marquette, 59th Inf., France; Charles Hansen, Aurora, machine gun battalion, 88th Div., France; Edwin V. Hanson, Aurora, navy, U. S. S. Georgia; Dick Irwin, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Charles Grewell Irwin, Murphy, Camp Funston, Kan.; Arnold Isaacson, Aurora (Co. H), France; Irvie P. Jensen, Stockham, Kansas City, Mo.; Clifton Verne Jones, Aurora, 355th Inf., France; Carl Arthur Johnson, Aurora, headquarters troop 80th Div., France; John Emil Johnson, Marquette, 335th ambulance company, France; John David Johnson (Co. II), France; Christian Andreas Gosvig Jensen, Aurora, medical department; Harold Jensen, Marquette, medical department, 6th Div. France; Einer Alfred Jensen, Marquette, Manhattan, Kan.; Frank J. Jirovsky, Aurora, Camp Grant, Ill.; Ernest William Joseph, Polk, Camp Grant, Ill.; Otto Herman Johnson, Chapman, Camp Funston, Kan.; John Arthur Johnson, Marquette, Kansas City, Mo.; Oscar V. Johnson, Marquette, Kansas City, Mo.; Irvin Peter Jensen, Stockham, Kansas City, Mo.; Lyman Johnson, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Lafayette Juett, Giltner, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Miller C. Jacobsen, Marquette, Fort Riley, Kan.; Herman George Jensen, Marquette, Camp Dodge, Iowa; James S. Johnston, Aurora (Co. II), overseas; Soren C. Jensen, Marquette (Co. II), overseas; Neils E. Jensen, Marquette (Co. II), overseas; C. C. Jessee, Aurora, Vanconver, Wash.; Roy Johnson, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; R. H. Jacks, Aurora (Co. II), overseas; Augustine Kirkpatrick, Phillips, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Carl Knutsen, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Carl G. Karlburg, Camp Funston, Kan.; Andy Kjelgaard,

Aurora, navy, Great Lakes, Ill.; Albert R. Knutsen, Chappell, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Henry D. Kesselring, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Roy Kline, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Roy Kessel, Aurora, timberman; Robert Kirkpatrick, Phillips, overseas; B. A. Kirkpatrick, Phillips (Co. H), overseas; Leslie A. Kettering, Phillips (Co. H), overseas; Carlton Kemper, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; W. G. Kaylor, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; George Lanterman, Aurora, navy; Louis Leonhardt, Aurora, Fort Omaha, Nebr.; Frank Arthur Larson, Trumbull, Camp Funston, Kan.; Peter M. Larsen, Hampton, medical corps, Fort San Houston, Texas; Harry A. Lefever, Stockham, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Otto John Liedtke, Hampton (Co. H), France; Roseoe Lanterman, Aurora, Manhattan, Kan.; Lars William Larson, Aurora, Camp Grant, Ill.; August Alfred Larson, Hordville, Camp Funston, Kan.; Gustaf Elbin Lindell, Phillips, Camp Funston, Kan.; Charles Ernest Long, Kansas City, Mo.; Earl Lantzer, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Oscar Lakin, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Peter N. Larsen, Hampton, Fort Riley, Kan.; Hans Lagoni, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Lyman Edward Lampshire, Hordville, Lincoln, Nebr.; Simon Richard Lysinger, Phillips, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Mike Lopresti, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Leonard Luther Lakin, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Thomas Henry Luby, Giltner, Fort Logan, Colo.; Charles Lulow, Aurora, overseas; J. Long, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; I. R. Lefever, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Sterling Laurie, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Arthur E. Leyrer, Hampton (Co. H), discharged for disability; Gilbert Laurie, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Robert J. Laurie, Aurora, (Co. H), overseas; Edward J. Lehman, Hampton, (Co. H), overseas; William Ernest Mudge, Hordville, Camp Grant, Ill.; Joseph C. Myers, Aurora, Camp Upton, N. Y.; Clarence Moss, Aurora (Co. H), 125th Inf., France; Frank Miller, Stockham, Manhattan, Kan.; Lee Miller, Aurora, Camp Grant, Ill.; Arthur Mathewson, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Louis Henry Mobley, Camp Funston, Kan.; Niels Miller, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Ferdinand Miek, Stockham, Camp Dodge, Iowa; James Morrell, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Henry J. Martin, Henderson, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Elon L. Martin, Fort Riley, Kan.; Melvin Marney, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Thomas C. Montgomery, Hordville, Camp Funston, Kan.; Mads P. Madsen, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Lawrence A. Mitchell, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Chester Arthur Moulton, York, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Robert Jesse McCullough, Stockham, Fort Logan, Colo.; Bernhard Lawrence McNeff, Giltner, France; William Elmer Montgomery, Hordville, Camp Funston, Kan.; William Hudson Moore, Phillips, Camp Funston, Kan.; Hugh Charles, McMahon, Hampton, France; Theodore Richard Mogensens, Hampton, Camp Funston, Kan.; Lawrence S. McCoy, aviation; W. C. Mabon, Aurora, aviation, France; Dr. Earl J. Meixel, Aurora, veterinary reserve corps, Little Rock, Ark.; Chris Markussen, Hampton, engineering corps; W. F. McVey, Hampton, aviation; Albert Mushaney, Aurora, overseas; Russell Munson, Aurora, hospital corps, navy, Mare Island, Calif.; Cecil Moses, Aurora, discharged for disability; Dr. Clarence McKee, Aurora, commissioned officer, medical reserve corps, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Oliver Marvel, Giltner, overseas; R. H. Meltvedt, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; John L. McGuire, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; H. B. Maxfield, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Orval L. Marlow, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Hans Harold Nissen, Marquette, Kansas City, Mo.; Edwin P. Newton, Aurora, 333rd field army band, France; Marius Nissen, Hampton,



Camp Grant, Ill.; Joseph B. Newlun, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Albin Joseph Nelson, Clarks, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; John Freeman Nicholson, Hordville, Kansas City, Mo.; William D. Nelson, Clarks, Camp Funston, Kan.; Sven August Nielson, Aurora, Lincoln; Thomas C. Nelson, Hordville, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Claud Erwin Newlun, Giltner, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Leslie J. Nunamaker, Aurora, naval hydro-aeroplane service, New York; Frederick C. Nowack, Phillips (Co. H), overseas; Cabel C. Newman, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Irvin Homer Otto, Aurora, navy, San Francisco, Calif.; Joseph Elias Olson, Aurora, Manhattan, Kan.; Carl Osterman, Hordville, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Frederick V. Olson, Hampton, Camp Funston, Kan.; William Herman Otto, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; John Omel, Giltner, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Reinholdt Oehsner, Stockham, Fort Logan, Colo.; Glen Osborn, Giltner, overseas; E. P. Olson, Marquette (Co. H), overseas; George F. Orendorff, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Palmer Robert Phillips, Doniphan, Fort Omaha, Nebr.; Joseph Glenn Perry, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Niels Peter Peterson, Marquette, Kansas City, Mo.; William Pankhurst, Phillips, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Henry Pankratz, Henderson, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Jerry Palmer, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Carl Post, Central City, Camp Dodge, Iowa; August Pohl, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Robert H. Potts, Aurora, Camp Funston, Kan.; Walter Byron Peterson, Marquette, Lincoln, Nebr.; Steven Aloysius Powell, Aurora, overseas; Roy Everett Phillips, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Elza Cecil Powell, Aurora, Fort Logan, Colo.; Gustaf Emil Post, Hordville, Camp Funston, Kan.; Ralph Powers, Aurora, overseas; Henry C. Peterson, Marquette, medical department; W. Pinkelman, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Howard R. Peterson, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; John Quinn, Aurora, quartermaster department, France; Clifford George Rowley, Hampton, navy, Great Lakes, Ill.; Charles Rutherford, Aurora, base hospital No. 49, France; Walter Rasmussen, Marquette, Manhattan, Kan.; Dave William Reardon, Stockham, Manhattan, Kan.; Harry Franklin Root, Giltner, Camp Funston, Kan.; L. Z. Harvey Ramsey, Camp Funston, Kan.; Ray Risley, Camp Funston, Kan.; John J. Rhinehart, Aurora, Fort Omaha, Nebr.; O. R. Rickel, Aurora, Kansas City, Mo.; Charles W. Rumley, Aurora, Fort Riley, Kan.; Earl P. Ramsey, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Earl F. Ready, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; John R. Richardson, Hordville, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Edward George Reiser, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Cecil R. Richards, Hordville, 125th Inf., France; William E. Ronan, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Ross Ronan, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Clarence Reed, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Robert E. Reed, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; John H. Reed, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Myron Leslie Singer, Stockham, Lincoln, Nebr.; Charles Samuel Stalnaker, Marquette, 339th field artillery, France; Bernard Allen Schrock, Aurora, hospital corps, medical department, Fort Bayard, N. M.; Ellis Wayne Skinner, Giltner, navy, Newport News, U. S. S. Iroquois; Archie Lothair Skinner, Giltner, navy, Mare Island, Calif.; William G. Scott, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; John Raymond Salmond, Stockham (Co. H), overseas; Elmer E. Schlegel, Marquette, Camp Jackson, S. C.; Glenn Spahr, hospital, Fort Snelling, Minn.; Ora S. Stokesbary, Aurora (Co. H), tank service, Tobyhanna, Pa.; Gus Stohl, Aurora, aviation, Logan, Utah; Henry J. Siebert, Stockham, Camp Grant, Ill.; Glenn Acie Stuart, Fort Riley, Kan.; Fred Elmer Spencer, Aurora, radio school, Lincoln, Nebr.; Emil Skogland, Polk, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Gustaf Swanson,

Aurora, Camp Dodge, Ia.; Peter Sorenson, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Frank Springsguth, Fort Riley, Kan.; Guy W. Southworth, Stockham, Fort Riley, Kan.; Herman Stettner, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Lucius Fred Stradley, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Oral Sandage, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Edward Stoller, Fort Logan, Colo.; Holin Tullius Schofield, Aurora, Fort Logan, Colo.; Earl Stevens, Aurora, France; Ole B. Stegeman, Marquette, Camp Funston, Kan.; Ray Edward Schreckengast, Aurora, France; Lemar R. Stanley, Aurora, Camp John Wise, Texas; Charles Spellman, Aurora, overseas; William A. Sears, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; George L. Sargent, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Dewey Stradley, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Oscar Lee Swanson, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Lester Strong, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Kenneth W. Strong, Aurora, (Co. H), overseas; Herman Strong, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Frederick Sorenson, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Mason W. Snyder, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; John G. Smith, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; John Shull, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Hardy W. Scott, Aurora (Co. H), France; Harold A. Schoonover, Aurora (Co. H), discharged for disability; Joseph A. Schneider, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Richard Skogsburg, Aurora, Lincoln, Nebr.; John L. Thomas, Aurora, aviation, 309th aero squadron, England; Orvill W. Titman, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Sares Walter Thornton, Stockham, Camp Funston, Kan.; Herman Ludwig Troester, Hampton, Camp Grant, Ill.; Clarence L. Thomson, Aurora, Fort Riley, Kan.; Peter B. Thomson, Fort Riley, Kan.; Benjamin H. Timmons, Hordville, Camp Funston, Kan.; Edward Tuetker, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Ia.; Fay Linton Tharp, Fort Logan, Colo.; George Edward Tozer, Stockham, Camp Funston, Kan.; Adam C. Trondt, Stockham, overseas; William H. Trautman, Stockham; C. O. Thomas, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Glenn Tunison, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Emmett Emil Waekerla, Doniphan, navy, U. S. S. Nevada; Stanley R. Wheeler, Giltner (Co. H), 22nd aero squadron, France; Leonard M. Wheeler, Giltner, 134th Inf., overseas; Harry B. Wilson, Marquette, Camp Custer, Mich.; Lloyd James Wright, Giltner, Camp Grant, Ill.; David Weissbrodt, Hampton, Camp Funston, Kan.; Ralph White, Doniphan, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Niels Wodder, Marquette, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Henry Warneke, Hampton, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Theodore L. Werth, Hampton, Camp Funston, Kan.; Gust Wall, Hampton, Lincoln, Nebr.; M. William Welch, Red Cloud, Camp Dodge, Iowa; Clayton Worrell, Aurora, Camp Dodge, Iowa; John M. Wall, Aurora, Fort Logan, Colo.; John Logan Willis, Camp Funston, Kan.; Albert Weathers, Aurora, timberman; William Weathers, Aurora, timberman; Walter Ward, Aurora, Y. M. C. A. secretary, France; Loren Wood, Aurora, artillery; Floyd Wright, Aurora, quartermaster department, France; Henry Willadsen, Marquette, special service, Aurora; Lee Wilson, Aurora, overseas; Conrad Wheeler, Giltner, overseas; C. Wilson, Giltner, overseas; Nile Weller, Giltner, overseas; M. R. Westlake, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Carl R. Wilson, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Earl M. Wilmot, Hampton (Co. H), overseas; Ray Waring, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Loren White, Aurora (Co. H), overseas; Sturl Wallin, Hordville (Co. H), overseas; Leonard C. Wallin, Hordville (Co. H), overseas; Glenn A. Wheeler, Giltner, marine corps, Mare Island, Calif.; Clifford Young, Marquette, aviation, France; Arthur Young, Aurora, France; Freddie L. Young, Trumbull, Camp Dodge, Iowa; George Young, Marquette, Camp Dodge, Iowa.

The names of eighty-seven members of the October contingent, who were inducted into the service October 21, 1918, added to above list practically completes it:

Arthur A. Peterson, Marquette; Carl Benjamin Gustafson, Marquette; Joseph Carl Herendeen, Giltner; James William Gellatly, Kimberley, Idaho; Carl Frederick Fernhaber, Hampton; Orlie Jennings Sailor, Aurora; Verne Regnar Hanson, Hampton; Samuel Cleveland McConnell, Aurora; Ferdinand Carl Oscar Nelson, Aurora; Charles Wesley Myers, Aurora; Fred C. Swanson, Sargent, Nebr.; Maynard Emmanuel Isaacsen, Murphy; Rudolph Henry Niklaus, Giltner; Olaff Henry Eugen, Giltner; William Sampson Crabtree, Aurora; Charles Ralph Adams, Aurora; Emiele Cozzei, Grand Island; Allen Osborne, Marquette; Alfred Peterson Elkjer, Hampton; August Henry Ernstmeier, Phillips; McGuire Callicott, Giltner; John Springer, jr., Murphy; Zaek Johnson, Marquette; William M. Sollinger, Grant, Nebr.; Frank Strickler Bute, Aurora; Martin F. Enderle, Stockham; Carl Lynn Genoways, Phillips; August Herman Mogensen, Hampton; Leon Hofmann, Henderson; Ralph J. Donelson, Marquette; John Peter George Rau, Hampton; Harold Wilfred Jones, Hordville; Julius Uman, Aurora; Frank Henry Stallman, Phillips; John Newell, Aurora; George Franklin Cosier, Aurora; Gustav Gereon Nelson, Stockham; Eward Gustaf Anderson, Aurora; Joseph Nielson, Aurora; Gottlieb Aekermann, Aurora; Henry J. Edwards, Stockham; Harold Casteel, Aurora; Lewis Clifford Linberger, Aurora; Raleigh E. Bolli, Giltner; Arthur George Swink, Giltner; Cecil Jacob Moses, Aurora; Victor Hoyd Titman, Aurora; Anders Jeppersen Andersen, Clear Lake, Iowa; Frederick T. Koltz, Hampton; Leonard Robert Fenster, Hampton; John Ed Lulow, Aurora; Ralph Leroy Donaldson, Aurora; Jerry Benson, Marquette; Carl Christine Hansen, Harvard; Marcus Marinus Larson, Hampton; Freeman Lawrence Larson, Hordville; Herluf Otto Thomsen, Marquette; George Henry O'Brien, Aurora; Cyrus Eugene Carlson, Aurora; Orland August Larsen, Marquette; James M. Hastings, Aurora; Aage William Andersen, Marquette; Edward D. Orendorff, Aurora; Albert McKinley Fox, Stockham; James Herman Potter, Phillips; Harry R. Hansen, Aurora; Wesley William Bellairs, Giltner; Russell Einer Peterson, Aurora; Aaron Peter Peterson, Hampton; Hugo Hjalmar Person, Clarks; William Fischer, Phillips; Herman Harry Leisner, Aurora; Frank Orda Salmon, Stockham; Homer Jackson Bagby, Aurora; Henry Jackson Wright, Giltner; John Ivar Carlson, Marquette; Skiler N. Carter, Giltner; Anton William Henry Heiden, Hampton; Archie Walter Paben, Hampton; Alvin L. Andersen, Marquette; Arthur Ernest Leyrer, Hampton; Raymond Lewis Peterson, Hampton; Homer Landal Branting, Hordville; Ruddy Oscar Ueckert, Hampton; James Cavett Bierbower, Giltner; Greenfield Forest Wheeler, Giltner; Manuel H. W. Troester, Stockham.



HISTORY  
OF  
CLAY COUNTY







OLE O. BUCK



## CHAPTER I

### THE EARLY SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CLAY COUNTY

SKETCH INCLUDED IN COURT HOUSE DEDICATION BOX—THE FIRST SETTLERS—JAMES BAINTER—OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION—WHAT BECAME OF THE OLD SETTLERS (R. G. BROWN).

#### EARLY HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

The records of the early annals of Clay County have been faithfully preserved by its earlier settlers, and there is an unusual abundance of material for use in portraying the story of this wonderful community's beginnings. Even at the risk of some duplication and repetition, the compilers have selected various accounts, records and memoirs of Clay County citizens and recorded them herein. Therefore, any duplications or even slight variations between these various selections will be thus accounted for. History is a composite collection and narration of human stories and being recorded by human minds is easily susceptible of slight variations in dates, places and order of incidents as between the memories of numerous persons who participated in the subject-events, even when written years ago while the matters were comparatively fresh in mind.

Covering in a very condensed space, a brief resume of Clay County's history, we will open this story with a selection taken from the manuscript placed in a large steel box, in the corner stone of Clay County's magnificent new court-house, when these ceremonies were held upon August 19, 1918.

The land from which our state and county is carved was called by the Indians "NiBthaska," or "Flat Water," and the first attempt to organize the country territorially was in 1844; but the bill calling the country "The Territory of Nebraska" was not passed until May 30, 1854. Before that the country's history was legendary, although the French left an authentic record of explorations along this same "Flat Water" or Platte River, as early as 1739. Lewis and Clark, O'Fallon, Fremont, Major Long, the stage drivers, pony express messengers, and fur traders were the only bits of other life than the Indians until 1857, when the first settlers began to straggle in.

The name Clay County was conferred on a division of old Pierce County about 1855, but was transferred to what is now the south part of Lancaster County. The present boundaries and name were established by act approved February 16, 1867.

Homesteaders came in slowly and the list of these contain many names still familiar in the records of 1918. The first location, that of James B. Weston, on Section 16-5-8 on the Little Blue, was in 1857. He built a log house and called his place Pawnee Ranch. It was the scene of much Indian trouble. These Indian troubles and the early hardships retarded the country's growth, but on September 11, 1871, Acting Governor James issued a proclamation for

the organization of the county and the first election was held on October 14, following. This proclamation is recorded on page 1 of Book 1 of the commissioner's records, written laboriously by hand with many a flourish. The records of the county's governing body now number (1918) seven large volumes, the first for the commissioner system, which changed to the supervisor system in November, 1888. Book seven of the supervisor record is the first of loose leaf design and typewritten. All of the recording was done in long hand until about 1908, but practically all the books are now loose leaf and written on the good old Oliver typewriter, introduced by L. F. Fryar.

The earlier history of the county is told in the history of its towns, but some of the interesting actions taken in the first record is the motion made to raise the county clerk's salary from \$300 to \$400; and at another meeting he is allowed 55c for postage. On December 2, 1871, a desk was bought for the county clerk, costing some \$80, and the same is still in use; a substantial and convenient desk even if somewhat old-fashioned.

Three election districts were made: Harvard, Little Blue and School Creek, a later change adding the Big Sandy district. On March 1, 1875, the present precincts were fixed, save that Eldorado was called Lincoln and Inland was called Scott.

August 30, 1873, Commissioner Philpot of "Lincoln" precinct presented a petition for a vote on re-locating the county seat which was tabled, rejected and stricken from the files. January 5, 1875, Commissioner Ezra Brown pointed out that a more central place was desirable, but his resolution was tabled without ceremony. July 7, 1875, 403 legal voters petitioned for a vote on the matter and same was called September 20, but the final decision was not reached until April 1, 1879. The last meeting of the commissioners was held in Sutton, May 21, and the first at Clay Center, June 2, 1879, but the battle still was held. The present court house was built that year with contract price of \$11,000 and actual cost of \$22,000, the commissioners having the proud privilege of prowling at stated intervals around the building operations and looking wise, being Messrs. W. R. Hamilton, R. Bayly, and Flavius Northrup. W. J. Keller, county clerk, and D. M. Leland, superintendent of construction. The work was finished November 30, 1880, and the first janitor was Pedro Dominicus. The county well was bored and the poor house and jail, the latter costing \$2,000, were built.

Echoes of the controversy came up in later years whenever Clay Center wanted streets, when Mr. Brown could and did prevent the use of the land for this purpose, and ditches often appeared across the streets most used. It is on record that one day some sidewalks were torn up and the women of Clay Center got out in a body and made a new one. Chivalry seems to have prevented this sidewalk from being destroyed.

Two years later, in January, 1882, one of the best known Clay County citizens, Mr. Louis Fryar, became county clerk.

The first school in the county began December 1, 1861, taught by Thomas M. Gregory in what was afterward known as District No. 5. In District No. 6, a young lady guest of D. A. Keeney at Dewese, Miss Laura A. Bancroft, of Iowa, was teaching, but the wooing of young Louis Fryar persuaded her that her life work lay in another direction. Clay Center still claims this sterling couple.

The first record of District Court dates back to May 16, 1873, Judge Gantt on the bench. The declaration of citizenship was made in May, 1874, by John W. Price. Since then there have been 1754. The first petition for divorce was made by Chas. J. Martin at this session. Trial for the lynching of Tom Jones and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, on March 15, 1885, was held March 30, with H. G. Brown and T. H. Matters, for the state, and Messrs. Reagan, L. G. Hurd and J. L. Epperson for the defense, resulting in the acquittal for lack of evidence. The rope used in this lynching is still in the county cupboard.

The Clay County Agricultural Association was organized April 15, 1872, at Sutton, and in 1881 the headquarters came to Clay Center. A. K. Marsh was president and J. M. Ramsey, secretary. The organization has continued with an annual appropriation from the county treasury. Agriculture has been from the first the county's mainstay, and we have a record in 1875 of 412 cars of grain shipped from Harvard, 330 from Sutton, 500 from Fairfield, Edgar and Glenvil. Wheat was then 65c.

The B. & M. Ry. sold the land for the new county seat, which was laid off into 600 lots. The first building was put up in May, 1879, and was a story frame, used as a courthouse. A postoffice established in Marshall Township, a mile east of town, in 1873, at the house of James Cruickshank, was changed to Clay Center, and a year later Mrs. Sophia Cruickshank became postmistress. The sale of stamps in 1889 is recorded as \$329. In the year 1917 the sale in Clay Center was \$25,000 or better. A society of Christians who were holding services in the schoolhouse southwest of town, now Central district, removed to town and built the first church in December, 1880, at a cost of \$1,200, replaced in 1905, at a cost of about \$6,000. A schoolhouse was built in July, 1881, with Mrs. Charles Wagner as first teacher, this being replaced in 1888 by a large frame building, and in 1902 the present brick structure was erected.

A large proportion of the county's population is of German or Bohemian extraction. About 55 families of Germans from Southern Russia near the port of Odessa on the Black Sea, came to Sutton and the adjacent country in the fall of 1873. The principal leaders of this colony were John Grosshans, Henry Griess and Henry Hoffman. They purchased about 16,000 acres of land there, averaging a price of \$7.00 per acre. Their influence and ways are still very noticeable in the vicinity of Sutton.

Clay County has always been rather Republican in politics, but the Populist movement was strong for a few campaigns. In 1896, A. C. Epperson, one of the later leaders in the affairs of the county, was elected county attorney, the only one of his party to win out. In 1916, the Republican candidate for governor carried the county by a large majority, but an entire Democratic court house bunch was elected.

Crime has never been very prevalent in the county. The Taylor-Jones lynching was the most sensational, until a gang of petty thieves was broken up by Sheriff Guy W. Secord in 1900, whereby a Clay Center man was killed. In 1916, a grain dealer was found dead in Harvard and Sheriff Charles O. Sanderson was shot by the supposed murderer.

Many Clay County people have become prominent in state or national affairs. S. R. McKelvie has been lieutenant-governor, and may yet be governor. (Governor 1919-1923.) C. A. Fulmer is chancellor of Wesleyan University. H.

K. Wolfe became a national educator, N. M. Graham, a prominent educator in Omaha. J. L. McBrien and Miss Edith Lathrop are in the bureau of education at Washington, D. C., A. C. Epperson has been on the supreme court commission, M. L. Corey and W. K. Newcomb and Miss Georgia Wilson are integral parts of the Federal Loan Bank of Omaha. J. A. Cruickshank, son of the first postmistress, is head of an important postal system for our soldier boys in France, and we might continue indefinitely. Suffice to say, that no county has a higher "batting average" than good old Clay.

Movements for a new court house have been started in the past fifteen years, but each failed miserably until early in the spring of the year 1916, Charles H. Epperson, an attorney residing at Fairfield, Nebraska, realizing the dire necessity of a new one, started the circulation of petitions to secure the necessary fifty-five per cent of the names of the legal voters of Clay County authorizing the Board of Supervisors to make the necessary levy to raise funds to erect a new court house at Clay Center, Nebraska.

A large number of signers were secured at Fairfield and Edgar, but nothing was done toward securing signatures in other parts of the county. About the middle of September, 1916, the Commercial Club of Clay Center met and organized a movement to secure the necessary signatures and raised a fund to pay the expenses of canvassers to cover the county.

H. C. Palmer of Clay Center was appointed to take charge of the drive, and at once proceeded to organize the county in less than eight days, with the splendid co-operation of the committee appointed by him, secured the names of sixty-two per cent of the legal voters of the county.

The petition was filed with the County Board of Supervisors on the 27th day of September, 1916, and on that day the County Board, consisting of A. W. Clark, chairman, John Myler, Smith Ingalsby, George Fishback, Frank Westering, George England and Philip Schwab, unanimously voted to make the necessary levy and to build a court house to cost \$100,000. W. F. Gernandt, of Omaha, was employed as architect to draw plans and afterwards Olson & Johnson of Omaha secured the contract for the erection of the building, and on August 19, 1918, the corner stone was placed in position by Ambrose C. Epperson, Grand Master of the A. F. & A. M., in the presence of a large gathering of the leading citizens of the county.

Ambrose C. Epperson, G. M. A. F. & A. M., of Nebraska:

In compliance with your request for information regarding the amount contributed to the several branches of the war activities by the citizens of Clay County during the war, ending August 1, 1918, I have the honor of submitting the following report:

Amount invested in Liberty Loan Bonds.....	\$ 962,800.00
Amount invested in War Savings and Thrift Stamps.....	322,977.44
Amount contributed to American Red Cross .....	104,222.56
Contributed to Y. M. C. A.....	10,000.00
Grand Total .....	<u>\$1,400,000.00</u>

Exclusive of Knights of Columbus contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. PALMER.

## THE FIRST SETTLERS

Following a very brief resume of the personnel of the earliest settlers of the county, logically comes a presentation of the early days of Clay County from the memoirs and in the words of James Bainter, a notable and unique character in the history of Clay County's earliest days, who not only enjoyed or underwent many a startling experience in those days, but had the forethought and the gift of recording many of them. Some few excerpts from Mr. Bainter's memoirs, such as space will permit, are herein incorporated.

The first settler of this county was John B. Weston, who in 1857 located on Section 16, Township 5, Range 8, on the Little Blue, built a log house and called the place "Pawnee Ranche." Prior to this time a spot at the mouth of Liberty Creek, on the Blue, was a favorite camping ground for the mail carriers. In 1858, James H. Lemon kept Liberty Farm Ranche here, as agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., and 1867, Benjamin and John Royce arrived. In 1864, James Bainter settled at Spring Ranche. In the spring of 1870 came A. D. Peterson, followed by Louis Peterson and Jonas Johnson, all Swedes. They were here in April, 1872, when the Virginian, John L. Lewis, arrived. The settlement was given the name Lewis precinct, in 1875. On November 1, 1873, a Dane named I. C. Christianson settled in this precinct, and he is said to be the first of the sixteen Danes who were in the county in 1882. In the summer of 1870, two brothers named Norman, also natives of Sweden, settled in School Creek precinct, and in the fall John Kennedy, an Ohioan, located his homestead on Section 2, Township 8, Range 5. On January 27, 1871, A. K. Marsh built a log house on the creek, below the Normans' dugout, Mrs. Marsh being the first white woman in this precinct. A. A. Corey, J. Steinmetz, the Ballzer brothers, F. M., Charles W., George and R. G. Brown came prior to April 11, 1871; W. Cuning and his wife followed in May, and later came R. L. Garr and W. E. Bemis. The Conant brothers arrived in Lincoln precinct in May, 1871, and on August 14, that year, W. T. McKnight arrived. Orrin Conant was shot and killed here on May 10, 1875, by D. A. Smith, the trouble arising about the ownership of a claim. The same year Glenvil precinct claimed the pioneers, Daniel Fitch, the trapper, J. W. Small, and Leroy S. Winters. B. F. Hocket constructed a sod house on Section 2, Township 7, Range 7, in May, 1871, his contemporary settlers being W. H. Chadwick, J. D. Moore and L. J. Starbuck. C. D. Moore and M. L. Latham arrived shortly after, and when the precinct was organized in 1875, the name Lynn was given to it. Sutton precinct claims Luther French, an Ohioan, as its first settler, in 1870. He built a dugout on the northwest quarter of Section 2, Township 7, Range 5, and soon after was visited by Capt. Charles White and Nellie Henderson, who rode from the West Blue in pursuit of an antelope, which they captured. H. W. Gray, his son and G. W. Bemis arrived May 4, 1871; William and Henry Smith, J. S. Schermerhorn, James Vroman, the Angbergs, Holingsworths, Brownells, Evans and Maltbys came about this time.

Leicester precinct was settled early in the winter of 1871-72, by Joseph Rowe, Stephen Brown, William Woolman and A. Woolman. With William Woolman was his adopted child, Miss Truelove Tibbles, who was drowned in April, 1876. G. W. Briggs and George McIntire were the first settlers in Scott

precinct, and in 1871 John P. Scott was the solitary occupant of Lone Tree precinct and the only settler for some time between School Creek and Spring Ranche, while Elm post office was presided over by him from the fall of 1871 until its removal to Fairfield, June 27, 1873. Reuben Peachy erected a house for general mercantile purposes in 1870, and was the first postmaster appointed in Clay County. After the re-establishment of the mail service, Richard Bayley, a blacksmith, located at the mouth of Buffalo Creek, followed by H. J. Higgins. In 1871 a water mill was constructed near the Liberty Ranche, by Al. Mills. Sheridan precinct was settled in 1872, by John Yates, Patrick Nagle, R. Hilliard, R. M. Mariner, T. R. Elder and Dennis Lahane. Logan precinct was first settled by Albert Curtis, March 7, 1871. Within a short time Riley Thurber, John Yandle, Wright Stacy, E. M. Isham, Nathan Tucker, A. Christison, Fletcher Page and the Pascalls arrived. J. B. Dinsmore came in May, 1872. The first settlement in Marshall precinct was made in July of this year by Flavius Northrup, followed by W. S. Addison and Warner Randall, J. Prawl and William Tolle. In November, 1871, J. K. Sanborn arrived in Edgar precinct as its pioneer, followed by the Carrs. Jacob Ritterbush came in 1872 and was appointed postmaster in June, and the same month the Jones family arrived.

#### JAMES BAINTER

The history of the early years of this division of Nebraska is based largely upon the relations of James Bainter, just as the early history of Adams County is told by Bill Kress, and of Hall County by William Stolley. Mr. Bainter, writing in 1889, for the *Fairfield News*, gives the following sketches:

"After arriving here I found a man named Lenard, who owned the ranch, having bought it of the Roper boys, whose uncle had built it in 1860. I traded for it in January, 1864, and moved my family in February. There was then no settlement in Clay County, except at Pawnee Ranche, and a stage depot at Liberty Farm. During the fall of 1863, I hunted and tended the ranch. Emigration west was very heavy the entire year, principally men dodging the draft and going to Pike's Peak or any place where they could escape the war. During this year there must have been an average of nearly 300 teams daily. The Pony Express had been discontinued, and stages were used and running one each day. There were plenty of buffalo, elk, antelope and thousands of wild turkeys; but the latter nearly disappeared after the big storm of April, 1873.

"The profits of the ranch business were wonderfully good; everything sold by the pound; potatoes sold for five cents per pound, the same for hay and other things in proportion. There were many Indians around in the summer, principally the Pawnees and Omahas—all friendly.

"In 1863, I was at Haekney Station, kept by a German named Myers, when a Pawnee came without an arrow. He said that two Sioux had chased him from the Solomon, and would soon overtake and kill him unless he could get some arrows. Myers had a lot of them, but would not loan him one. He started to leave when the Sioux rode up, shot him dead, and after scalping him, rode off.

"The winter of 1863-64 was rough and cold, but the travel continued good. In the spring I planted ten acres of corn which promised well. This spring,

the Sioux, in great numbers, made their appearance on a hunting trip. They continued to come at intervals until August, paying for their goods in pelts or cash. Their camp at this time was down, or in, the Indian Territory. About the first of August, I began to notice a change in their demeanor. They seemed sully and ill-natured, so that I became uneasy. I sent word to the ranchmen along the route to look out for them, and also wrote to Fort Kearney, informing General Heath of their actions. He replied that there was no danger, and that the Indians were friendly. I continued, however, to prepare for them. On the morning of August 9 I was going north of the ranch, and while riding along saw an Indian coming toward me. As we approached each other he suddenly left the path and descending a ravine, was at once lost sight of. Something in his manner aroused my suspicions, and getting off my mule, I cautiously approached the place where he disappeared. Presently I saw him, dismounted and stretching his neck to see me. Twice I drew my revolver and could have easily shot him, but they had always been friendly, and I would not be the first to kill. While debating this question he discovered me, and leaping on his pony, rode off, lying on one side of the pony, as Indians usually do when in danger of being fired upon. I knew now that business had begun. He descended the ravine into Pawnee Creek, where he was joined by two others. I then rode as fast as possible to my ranch and told my wife to get ready for an attack. My son and hired man had gone to Pawnee Ranche that morning, so my wife and I went to work, she to moulding more bullets and I to trimming them. Soon we heard the clatter of horses' hoofs, and my son and hired man rode in very much excited, saying the Indians had attacked Pawnee Ranche, and had killed and scalped Burke, a freighter. They described the Indians and I was satisfied, from the description, that they were the ones I had seen together. That day and the following night passed without further disturbance. The stage had failed to arrive that night so in the morning I mounted a race mare which I owned, and started up the Blue to see what had become of it. I met it about three miles up the river, with several passengers, among them being the stage agent at Lone Tree, and his wife. They reported that the Indians had surrounded the stage the night before, but that toward morning they had withdrawn. The morning before a man named Smith, from St. Joe, passed my ranch in charge of a train loaded with provisions and two threshing machines. The stage people did not meet Smith nor his train. I suspected his party were either killed or captured, and so followed along the river to where I supposed they would camp for dinner, about six miles from Spring Ranche, now (1889) White's farm. There a fearful sight met my gaze. Every man of them, six in all, had been killed and all scalped except a red-haired Hibernian, who was shot in the temple and above the hip with arrows, and was still breathing. I pulled the arrow out of his temple, and went to a pond of water to obtain drink for him. I filled my boot with water, but when I returned the man was dead. There was the appearance of the desperate fight he made. The wagons were all gone except the ones on which were the machines; the flour was scattered around and the bacon piled up. I returned to my home; the Indians could be seen approaching. Knowing that my ranche could be successfully defended I loaded my family in a wagon, while my two hired men (the Rev. C. W. Wells, of the

Methodist Church of Davenport, Neb., and his brother) mounted horses, and all made for Pawnee Ranche, which was located one mile east of Joseph Meehan's present farm. Richard Wells was riding a fractious horse, and when approaching Pawnee Ranche the horse reared and threw him. The hammer of his rifle caught the horn of his saddle and it was discharged, wounding him severely. He called out that he was shot, and running to him, I picked him up, threw him into the creek, washed his wounds, drew a silk handkerchief through them, cut out the bullet with an ordinary pocket knife, placed him in the wagon and proceeded to the ranch, where we found the coach with three or four men and a woman. There were now fourteen persons on the ranch, among whom were 'California Joe' and Joe Roper, father of Laura Roper, who arrived by a stage that morning. The Indians could now be seen, near the Llewellyn farm, approaching from the east. 'California Joe' proposed to reconnoiter and, mounting the best horse, went forth. I stayed on the house top to support him, should he require assistance. He had ridden about eighty rods when I noticed that the Indians were about to cut him off. He was busy watching them, but soon saw my signal and retreated, pursued by two Indians. When one Indian came within ten paces, Joe turned and fired, hitting the Indian. He also received a hit in the arm, the other men going to Joe's relief. The savages came on in force. Seeing that the whites would be overtaken, I signalled them to dismount, which order was carried out, when the Indians went to cover, leaving the venturesome whites time to return to the ranch. The Indians lost three warriors, the chief and two others shot east of the ranch. That night their bodies were removed by the tribe.

"During our fight at Pawnee, Joe Roper was on the ranch. He was rather fond of fire-water, and had indulged freely that day. I had placed a ladder against the house, and would occasionally go up on the house to see what the Indians were about. Joe Roper also concluded to look around, saying: 'I'm going up to see the posish.' I told him he had better stay down or he would get a posish, but he went up. As he was about to step from the ladder to the house, White Antelope sent an arrow after him which grazed his cheek and parted the hair on the side of his head. Joe, like a bear, let go all holds and dropped. The Indians made a great racket, as they supposed Joe to be dead; but they were as surprised as the whites to see him up again as sober as a judge. After several months a company of United States troops carried away the skeletons of the murdered whites. The next morning, about 10 o'clock, we sent Mrs. Metcalfe and the two wounded men to Fort Kearney on the stage coach, and the others of us went with them as far as Hook's Ranche, ten miles east of the fort, where we met a company of United States troops going after the Indians, Heath having learned at last that they were not as friendly as he thought. On our way we stopped at my ranch. Nothing remained but the smoking remnant of my property. All my stock was killed, except one poor team, and my total loss was \$5,872.50, for which I have a claim before Congress.

"We remained at Hooks all night, and in the morning Metcalfe and wife returned, and we took the trail for Nebraska City. Following the Blue, we struck the location of the Beatrice, where I left my family and returned to bury the dead and gather up my stock. At Big Sandy, near where Alexandria now stands, we found a few men who were not molested by the Indians. About



seven miles above that we came to the claim of two Germans, and found their bodies minus the scalps; buried them and went on to Hackney Station (Holiday's), which was destroyed. At Yulick's Ranche, six miles below Oak Grove Ranche, we found the two German owners dead and scalped. We found Kiowa Station burned, and near by the body of Joe Urbanks, who formerly had charge of Little Blue Ranche. He was shot by arrows and scalped. Oak Grove Ranche was destroyed, and near it lay the bodies of Kelly and Butler, the former a part owner of Pawnee Ranche, and the latter a farmer from near Beatrice. At this point the men resisted the Indians, but lost the two men named. Hurrying on to Urbank's Ranche, kept by Urbank & Son (not Joe Urbank who was killed), we found the remains of the old gentleman, his three sons and his daughter, aged eighteen years. She was a feeble minded girl, but this did not save her from the vengeance of the savages. Her body was horribly mutilated. The body of the youngest child, a boy about five years old, was found some distance from the house with seven arrows in it. The Indians scalped him, taking all his hair. Mrs. William Urbanks, her two small children, and Laura Roper were captured and carried away. At the Narrows, a water place on the Blue, Mr. Canada's body was found. He was lying on his face grasping a rifle, and the savages fearing him, did not approach to get his scalp. A short distance away we found two men and a boy dead and scalped. Close by were two wagons, one robbed of the team, and the other having the oxen attached, one of which was killed, and the other unable to stand from starvation. Up the Little Blue we came to a train of twenty wagons. There was no stock visible, and nothing was left of the wagons but the irons. Beyond this about a mile we found a number of bodies of men and boys. I have forgotten how many. This was near Little Blue Station, which was also burned. From this point onward we found many wagons either burned or ransacked, but no dead bodies. Buffalo Ranche, at the mouth of Buffalo Creek, southeast of Fairfield, on Thomas Shaw's farm, escaped injury, and was afterwards used as a stage station. Liberty Farm Station, near Deweese, was burned and never rebuilt. Mr. Royce used some of the logs in his new house of 1869—the same which was burned in 1888 or 1889. The next point was Pawnee Ranche, which we found about as we left it after the fight, except that a large quantity of provisions had disappeared, probably at the hands of the soldiers, who were pretty tough men, most of them having been captured from John Morgan in his raid on Ohio. The next morning we went on to my place, having buried forty-eight bodies on our way up. The following morning we started down the river and found nearly 1,000 head of cattle, fifty of which, found at the mouth of Elk Creek, were claimed by the Eagle Gold Company as belonging to their wagon train. We found horses and mules with harness, bridles and saddles on; but they were so wild that it was almost impossible to get near them. This stock was all taken to Big Sandy, advertised and distributed among the surviving owners, my share for labor being ninety dollars. After this I took my family to Missouri, but returned in a few weeks with my brother, only to find Capt. Flagg's troops at Pawnee Ranche. Next day I accompanied the troops up Thirty-two Mile Creek; found Lone Tree Station, the first above Spring Ranche, burned, and buried the six men whose bodies we discovered the morning after the first fight. We found Elm Creek Station destroyed while George

Comstock's Station at Thirty-two Mile Creek was undisturbed, the owner having fled to Beatrice before the attack was made. Returning to the ruins of Spring Ranche, I found the station at Pawnee re-established and immediately began the work of rebuilding Spring Ranche. In the spring of 1865 I brought my family from Missouri, and found Metcalfe and family at Pawnee Ranche. We each carried a small stock of goods. My store goods destroyed cost \$1,600. After this it was considered safe to leave the place, and the consideration was acted upon.

"On my return in 1870, I found my claim jumped by Tom Smith, of Marysville, Kansas. I stopped at Hackney Station and raised a crop while I defended my claim, and succeeded in obtaining possession of it. My buildings were nearly all ruined. John Crossman and John Holmes were living in one of my pilgrim houses, a small building used at ranches for pilgrims or immigrants to cook in. I found Lou Thayer, Robert Cargill and D. W. Evans on homesteads south of the Blue. They had settled there in the spring and summer, and in the fall assisted me in repairing my buildings. William Kress and Joe Fouts lived two miles farther up the river, on the edge of Adams County. John Llewellyn had his claim, but had not moved on it. G. W. Noble, Cyrus Griffith, F. M. Lewey, or Lucy, and wife, L. F. Fryar, B. R. Royce and W. S. Work resided at Liberty Farm. At this time I made it a business to locate people on claims up the river into Franklin County, but could not induce any to settle on the upland until all the bottom lands were sold."

Mrs. Bainter (Elizabeth Schultz) died suddenly from heart disease, March 7, 1885. She was the companion of James Bainter while in the army, and was present with him in many of the affairs here at home, told by him in his reminiscences.

#### OLD SETTLERS

An Old Settlers' Association was founded October 8, 1880, at Sloat's Hall, in Harvard. The object of this association was to place on record the happenings of all the years since the beginnings of settlement. I. N. Clark, of Sutton, was elected president; George Noble, of Fairfield, and C. J. Martin, of Clay Center, vice-presidents; M. J. Hull, of Edgar, historian; A. E. Goodall, of Lynn, secretary; D. N. Nettleton, of Spring Ranche, treasurer, and T. R. Elder, officer of the day. The executive committee comprised J. B. Dinsmore, of Sutton; J. J. Walley, of Edgar; L. Brewer, of Fairfield; Samuel Sloat, of Harvard; and L. N. Bryant, of Spring Ranche.

#### WHAT BECAME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS

To those of the second and third generations of Clay County residents who may not happen to be sons or daughters of families represented in the roster of first pioneers, or who may have moved into the county within the past quarter-century, a most interesting question is the one, What became of these early pioneers who braved the hardships of the initiatory days of the county's existence to lay its foundations? The year 1921, some 64 years after the arrival of John B. Weston, and some 45 to 51 years after the arrival of most

of the other pioneers named, is a rather late date to scout around for this information. But Robert G. Brown of Sutton was able to account for the death, removal or later course in the careers of most of the very earliest settlers of the various communities of the county.

Of the early settlers of School Creek, most of whom have already been mentioned. Peter Norman sold out and moved away about 1876; John Kennedy went to Dakota late in the "seventies"; Albert K. Marsh, deceased, one of the first county commissioners, lived until a few years ago. A. A. Corey has been deceased about two decades. J. Steinmetz, since deceased, was appointed receiver of the McCook Land Office, while a resident of Clay County, during the first Cleveland administration. Ballzer boys moved away, later living in Oklahoma. F. M. Brown, for many years editor of Sutton Register, died about two years ago. He served as the first county clerk. Charles Brown, for many years a farmer and later in the real estate business, died about eight or ten years ago. George Brown moved from Clay County to Sargent, Nebraska. Robert G. Brown is still in hale and hearty activity at Sutton, and to him may be attributed most of this section of discussion of the course and exit of the worthy pioneers, heretofore discussed in this chapter. Robert Brown came to Sutton, that is, came in from the homestead, with the advent of the railroad and stayed with the town. He built the first frame house off Saunders Avenue, used as the pioneer court house. His homestead was a mile south of the town in Sutton precinct.

W. Cunning died after his removal to Colorado. R. L. Garr moved to Kansas long before his death, and W. E. Bemis lived until about three years ago.

Orrin Conant was killed; William Conant and T. Van Tress moved away. Robert G. Brown relates that he was a member of the coroner's jury that held the inquest over the remains of Orrin Conant and helped in the prosecution of Smith. The dispute had arisen over a claim. After indictment for manslaughter, and a trial, Smith was discharged.

Among the pioneers of Glenvil precinct, J. W. Small moved to York, and during his lifetime once represented Clay County in the legislature. Leroy S. Winters went to Denver.

Of the earliest settlers in Lynn precinct, W. H. Chadwick and J. D. Moore have passed beyond; L. J. Starbuck moved to Salt Lake City, B. F. Hocket moved into Harvard, M. L. Latham moved away from the county.

John S. Lewis, for whom Lewis precinct was named has been deceased for many years.

Of those who figured in the early settlement of Sutton, Luther French died long ago. He sold out the townsite to I. N. and M. V. B. Clark. H. W. Gray, as a pioneer of the town lived in Sutton for many years; J. R. Maltby, long since deceased, was the original suggester of the name of the town, with Sutton, Massachusetts, in mind. The incident of the contest of the homestead of James C. Vroman by Maltby & Way, while Vroman had been away getting a living scratched up at Kearney, is recounted more fully in the separate story of Sutton, but Mr. Brown relates how Vroman left the country and shook the dust of Clay County from his feet when Maltby & Way "got away" with their proceedings. J. M. Gray & Co. started the first lumber-yard in the county at Sutton.

From Scott precinct G. W. Briggs moved to Minneapolis. John P. Scott of Lone Tree precinct, left Clay County. Lone Tree on his homestead, was a mammoth cottonwood tree which stood in its lofty position as a sentinel of that vicinity for many years, and was finally blown to the ground a few years ago. From this tree the precinct received its name. Scott was postmaster of White Elm office in this precinct when that office was moved to the new village of Fairfield.

The settlement of Fairfield is more fully detailed elsewhere in this narrative. Benjamin Royce, who lived nearby, and George W. Noble, who owned the Liberty Ranche, played an important part. John R. Lawhead, another principal actor, died a few years ago. Reuben Peachy is also deceased. He built and stocked a store sometime in 1870, and was the first postmaster appointed in the county after the re-establishment of the mail routes, upon a route bringing mail from Hebron, via Kiowa, Liberty Farm and Spring Ranches, to the stockdale at Red Cloud, on the Republican River. Richard Bayley, who had left his trade as a worker in metals to come to Clay County in 1870, and was one of the first Commissioners of Clay County and a pioneer blacksmith, with a shop on his farm at the mouth of Buffalo Creek, later went to Kansas. He is now deceased. H. J. Higgins, who came about that time, moved away.

Recurring to early Sutton settlers: J. Longstreth moved to Ogden, Utah; A. S. Twitchel left Sutton and moved to Ong; Charles Moon is deceased; John D. McMillan also went to Ong; and D. L. Herrick moved to Broken Bow, Nebraska. Richard Hilliard, one of the original crew of settlers in Sheridan precinct, is still living in 1921.

About the first school in Clay County, if not actually the very first school, was a "pay" school taught by William L. Weed, a brother-in-law of Robert G. Brown, now living in Denver. This original enterprise in education was launched at Sutton, the home of so many original steps in Clay County's history.

The next school was taught by Lydia M. Tont, in Sutton and became District number two. District number one was organized from territory north of Sutton.

The balance of the townships covered territory further removed from Mr. Brown's sphere of activity and he did not dare trust his personal acquaintance and recollections covering the remainder of the county in answering, What Became of the Pioneers?

## CHAPTER II

### T. A. BARBOUR'S HISTORY OF ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT OF CLAY COUNTY

EARLY ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNMENT—1875 TO 1890—COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS  
SUTTON RELINQUISHES HOPE—COUNTY SEAT LEAVES SUTTON—THE EARLY  
EIGHTIES—RESUME OF COUNTY OFFICIALS—LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION.

#### T. A. BARBOUR'S EARLY HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

In a county with as many nearly-evenly matched communities and well settled and energetically developed settlements as Clay County, it requires the composite collection of all viewpoints to evenly balance the story of the county. Having looked at the settlement and development of the county through the eyes and mental registration of early settlers of at least three other portions of the county, we will also turn to the "pen" of a faithful pioneer of the north-western corner of the county. The town of Harvard counts among its shining lights of the past, T. A. Barbour, for many years a practicing attorney of county-wide note, who with painstaking care made a research into the early records of the county. Even at the expense of some repetition with the former portions of the story or later chapters, we can gain new points in the county's history from such excerpts as we herewith reproduce from a series of letters he prepared in 1912 for the Harvard Courier.

Mr. Barbour's complete treatment of the county government to a period within a decade ago leaves but little to bring it down to date, and this has been done by the insertion in brackets of the officials of the past decade.

This narrative is a distinct contribution to the county's history which demonstrates how fortunate it is that a few members of each generation will record events while they are yet fresh in mind.

I have been asked by the editors of the Courier to write somewhat of the early history and doings of the first settlers of Clay County, and if I do this I desire to make a record of things mentioned relating to first events that are reliable and worthy to be retained as part of the record of one of the best counties in Nebraska; and to do this, I must crave the assistance of others in the securing of facts written on.

Bill Nye, in his Comic History of the United States, says, and William says some very true things in his own amusing way, that: "Facts in a nude state are not liable criminally any more than bright and beautiful children commit a felony by being born thus; but it is the solemn duty of those having these children in charge to put appropriate, healthful and even attractive apparel upon them at the earliest possible moment." Continuing, William says, "It is thus with facts. They are the framework of history, not the drapery. They are like

the cold, hard, dishevelled, damp, and uncomfortable body under the knife of the demonstrator, not the bright and bounding boy, clothed in graceful garments and filled to every tingling capillary with a soul."

It is somewhat in keeping with these thoughts, that we undertake the writing of a series of letters for *The Courier*, that have to deal with the early history of this county, for it is from the early settler, and the musty records of more than forty years that we must gather the information desired.

To aid us in this work, we earnestly ask that the early settlers and others knowing of such information should send us "cold hard facts" worthy to be retained as history, and we will undertake to, "so dress them," that they will make a creditable appearance in the archives of history, and though historical facts are usually dry and hard to digest, will be reasonably palatable to the reading public.

The present Clay County is the second county by that name organized in Nebraska. The first, was by an act approved March 7, 1855, special laws of Nebraska, as shown by statutes of 1855 on page 343, as I was some years ago advised by Alexander Schlagal, draftsman in the office of Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings.

This county was divided by act approved February 16, 1864, the south half attached to Gage and the north half to Lancaster counties, as shown by record found on page 255, laws of 1864, as I am further advised.

The first effort to organize the present Clay County, was May 17, 1871, when acting Governor James issued his proclamation calling for an election to be held at the residence of Luther J. Keeney, on S. E. quarter, Section 24, Township 8, Range 7, for the organization of Clay County, and the election of officers.

Harvard and Sutton were the two contesting towns for the county seat, and it was but natural that each should use its best endeavors to secure this coveted prize as a leading factor in the building of a good town on this wild unbroken prairie, although Sutton could not expect always to enjoy its keeping, being six miles from the north line and about one and one-half miles from the east line of the contemplated county line, while Harvard had no sure thing of holding it if secured, when the county became fully settled; still immediate benefits were considered worth the trying by friends of each place, with Sutton seemingly in the lead.

As the story has been told me, Judge Lamont, the County Judge of Hamilton County, was the nearest officer before whom the judges and clerks of election could go to make oath of office, and that when they reached the log house of Judge Lamont on his homestead, the Judge had been called by "important business" to Grand Island, and there was no person before whom the necessary oath of office could be made.

I am also advised, that the party conveying these persons who had anticipated presiding at the birth of our county as judges and clerks of election, "made haste slowly" as a part of the plan to consume the day, in his windings along the hills and canyons of the Little Blue, so much so that when the party returned to the place where the election was to have been held, the election could not have been held had the officers qualified, as the day had been well spent in their pilgrimage to find an officer to clothe them with official power. Just how much fiction my informant put in this narrative I do not know but the fact

remains that the election was not held, and the celebration over the securing of the county seat was deferred.

The second effort to organize the present Clay County was more successful and took place the following September, when acting Governor James again issued his proclamation as follows:

PROCLAMATION TO ORGANIZE CLAY COUNTY

State of Nebraska,  
Executive Department.

Whereas: A large number of the citizens of the unorganized county of Clay, have united in a petition asking that an election be called for the purpose of choosing county officers preliminary organization of said county, therefore I, William H. James, acting governor of the state of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby order that an election be held in said county at the residence of Alexander Campbell, in Section 6, Township 7, Range 6, on Saturday, October 14th, A. D. 1871, for the purpose of choosing three county commissioners, one county clerk, one county surveyor, one county treasurer, one sheriff, one probate judge, one county superintendent of schools, one coroner, three judges of election, and two clerks of election.

I do hereby designate and appoint J. R. Maltby, Alexander Campbell, H. Manchester, as judges of election and S. I. Davis and Chris. Calkins, as clerks to conduct said election in accordance with an act for the organization of counties approved June 24th, 1867, and the election laws of this state.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the state of Nebraska to be affixed this Eleventh day of September, A. D., 1871.

WM. H. JAMES,  
Acting Governor.

By WM. H. JAMES, Secretary of State.

Agreeable to this call, the election was held with the following results: Commissioners, A. K. Marsh, 55 votes; P. O. Norman, 55; A. A. Corey, 55; F. Shaw, 33; M. L. Latham, 33; G. W. Langford, 33; and C. H. Calkins, 2 votes. Elected: Marsh, Norman and Corey.

For county clerk: F. M. Brown, 55 votes; F. M. Davis, 33. Elected: Brown. County treasurer: J. Hollingsworth, 54 votes; S. C. Sloat, 33. Elected: Hollingsworth. County judge: J. R. Maltby, 54 votes; L. J. Keeney, 16; Ezra Brown, 12. Elected: Maltby. P. T. Kearney was elected sheriff; R. S. Fitzgerald, surveyor, and James Schermerhorn, superintendent of schools, by the same corresponding vote, while Sutton gained the county seat by 23 votes over all cast, the vote being as follows: Sutton, or as voted on, Section 2, Township 7, Range 5—56 votes. Geographical center Clay county, 24 votes. Harvard, or as voted, Section 34, Township 8, Range 7 west—8 votes. Section 8, Township 5, Range 8—I vote. A total of 89 votes on this question.

If this vote has been correctly given us, it would appear that one more vote was cast for the location of the county seat than for the election of officers on highest vote, and as much interest was felt in this first election the total vote

should fairly represent the legal voters in the county at this time, offsetting the "reciprocity vote from other counties" that is reported as coming over their county line to assist the Clay County voter, for the stay at home voter in the county.

Let us pause a moment and consider some of the conditions under which this the first election was held when Clay county was cut out of the unorganized territory of Nebraska, and given place in her list of counties, a county that has already accomplished so much and destined to ever make a record worthy its name, whose influence has long been felt in the department of state, whose sons and daughters born within its confines, educated in our schools and borne the privations of pioneer life, have gone out beyond its borders and taken places in the educational and business world, side by side and shoulder to shoulder with the best in any state.

The home of Mr. Campbell where this election was held has been described to me by him as being 11x16 feet, and eight feet high with shingled roof and a common board floor, the sides covered with twelve-inch sheeting that had shrunk one-half inch or more apart, without inside or outside covering and through which came the cold wind and snow-flakes of a most unpleasant and chilly day.

At one side of the room and near the door stood a rude table around which sat the judges and clerks of election, while in another part of the small room, trying to keep warm by the fire of the stove was Mrs. Campbell and children with some of the neighboring women.

The table on which the clerks kept their records was made of pine boards with ash legs cut from small ash trees by Mr. Campbell, as he came from Lincoln with lumber with which to build this little house where he had purchased it and brought it to this claim by team, a distance of more than eighty-five miles by wagon road, while two or three small windows put in in primitive manner, gave necessary light to this pioneer home and enabled the clerks to record the vote that was handed in through the partly opened door.

It was under these conditions that Clay County was organized and became an active part of the great state of Nebraska, and its first officers were elected to open out the business records connected therewith by the eighty-nine voters who came on foot, in heavy farm wagons and on horseback from the rude homes in the dug-out, the sod house and the rudely constructed lumber habitations on this bleak October day by the act of their ballot through the partly opened door after the signal to open had been given.

"How mighty is our ballot  
This emblem of the free,  
America's tribute to her sons  
Emblematic of their liberty."

In 1912 Mr. Campbell still resides on this or adjoining land where this election was held, having never removed therefrom except it may be for temporary purposes for a short time, and now has one of the best farms and surroundings in Clay County, and where he and Mrs. Campbell are ever ready to extend to their friends a most cordial greeting at their pleasant home, three and one-half miles east from Harvard.

We close this letter with the thought, that while Clay County was being



"born" Chicago was being "burned" by the unkind act of the domestic cow the evening before in her effort to "lift the lantern with her foot."

Next we will go somewhat further in the completion of the structure of county organization by the appointment of officers, and other incidents first taking place in the great list of events of their kind that largely will not cease to go on during the eternity of time in which the wheel of county organization shall continue to perform its mission of protecting the right of citizenship of our county.

As suggested previously A. K. Marsh, P. O. Norman, and A. A. Corey were elected first county commissioners and composed the legislative body to conduct the business of the county.

November 4th, 1871, twenty-one days after the organization of the county, the first commissioners' meeting was held at which time A. K. Marsh was elected chairman of the board.

At this meeting the county was divided into three commissioner districts, or perhaps we should be more explicit and say three precincts, as at that meeting it does not seem clear that each commissioner had a well defined district having been elected without regard to districts they acted generally regardless of location.

These districts were organized by town and range numbers, but for the better information of our readers, we will give present precinct names. Harvard precinct was made up of what is now known as Harvard, Lynn, Inland, Leicester, and the west half of Lincoln and Lewis precincts. Little Blue precinct composed Glenvil, Spring Ranche, Lone Tree, Fairfield, and west half of Edgar and Marshall precincts. School Creek precinct took in Logan, Sheridan, Sutton, School Creek and the east half of Edgar, Marshall, Lewis and Lincoln precincts.

These precincts were designated election precincts, and the first general election was held for the county in the fall of 1872. The place where the election was held, and the judges and clerks of election, were designated by the commissioners.

To make provisions for the granting of saloon license seemed somewhat imperative, as at this meeting the license for the sale of liquor was placed at \$25.00 for six months, \$40.00 for one year, and at the next meeting, held November 11th, the bond for saloon keepers was made \$1000. In this connection I will say, that the records show that at the meeting of the board, held May 25, 1872, a change was made as per the following wording: "On motion of Mr. Corey, the resolution adopted November 4th, 1871, to regulate the tax on liquor dealers, was rescinded."

"On motion of Mr. Norman, the tax to be imposed on liquor dealers, shall be one hundred dollars, for one year, and sixty dollars for six months, anything to the contrary notwithstanding."

One might reasonably infer that at that early period in our county's history, the license question received close consideration, and this change made after a sharp discussion by the powers creating it, though we find no mention of the granting of saloon license till April 3rd, when three were granted.

Special sessions of the board of commissioners were held after this meeting on November 4th, on November 11th, 18th, 25th, December 4th, and 16th and meeting on January 2, 1872.

At these meetings, seemingly as fast as the commissioners could do so, the machinery for the management and transaction of the business of the county was put in action by the appointment of officers and other necessary proceedings, and would indicate that the men in charge performed well the work assigned them and understood the work required to complete the organization of the county, some of which we will mention in the order of their doings.

After dividing the county in three precincts for election and other purposes, it then became necessary to provide them with officers, and we find the following were appointed to various places.

For Harvard precinct, Ira F. Pearsall, justice of the peace; Charles E. Canfield, assessor; Frank Cheney and Bradford Stone, constables, were appointed November 11th; and W. Cuning, constable for School Creek, at same meeting.

December 4th, A. K. Marsh was appointed justice of the peace for School Creek, and R. G. Brown county treasurer in place of Hollingsworth, who had failed to qualify.

Louis N. Bryant and Albert S. Nobel were appointed constables for Little Blue precinct, November 4th, and on January 2nd, John Royce was appointed constable for Little Blue, evidently in place of one of these not qualifying, names not given.

November 11th, clerk instructed to demand from the clerk of Fillmore County, the tax list and any money he might have from licenses issued in Clay County.

December 16th, six road districts were made by the commissioners, and the justice of the peace was made supervisor of roads in the district where he lived.

January 2nd, county clerk was given a salary of \$300 for years 1871 and 1872 which was afterwards increased to \$400, by a reconsideration of the motion at their meeting on April 15, 1872, and this sum allowed.

In February, 1872, A. K. Marsh was appointed to proceed to Fillmore County and settle with the commissioners thereof, and W. W. Sellich was appointed to ascertain the amount of moneys due Clay County by Saline County, and R. G. Brown was employed as attorney in the suit against Saline County.

At this meeting of April 15, bills for the first assessment of Clay County were allowed as follows: John C. Merrill, School Creek precinct, \$66.00; J. W. Langford, Little Blue precinct, \$54.00; and Charles E. Canfield, Harvard precinct, \$39.00.

The question of calling an election to vote on the question of issuing bonds to aid in the building of the St. Joseph, Denver City R. R., was before the board, and a special election called for May 21, 1872, at this meeting.

March 2nd, a room was rented from R. G. Brown, for use of commissioners' meeting, the county clerk, and county treasurer at ten dollars per month to include fuel, and to date from December 15th, 1871.

On March 12, 1872, M. L. Latham, Louis Thayer and John Kennedy were appointed appraisers of school lands in Clay County. In April, L. N. Bryant took Thayer's place. R. S. Fitzgerald was appointed commissioner to locate all roads "hereafter petitioned for." At this time \$5 was paid for handcuffs for sheriff's use; Martin Clark was allowed \$1.75 for medicines supplied poor persons, and \$16 was appropriated to build a bridge in School Creek at county line;

while \$25 was appropriated to build a bridge at Sutton (after rescinded) and \$631.55 was paid Aeres & Blackman for books, etc., for county. An election on the question of issuing bonds for \$75,000 to the St. Joe & Denver Railroad Company was ordered; the liquor license was increased to \$100 per annum, and the following tax levy authorized: State school, 2 mills; State general,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mills; State sinking, 1 mill; university,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mill; county general, 6 mills; sinking fund, 1 mill; land road tax, \$4 per 160 acres; court house, 1 mill, and bridge tax, 2 mills. R. S. Fitzgerald was paid in July, 1872, for surveying poor farm, and A. A. Corey and F. M. Brown for locating said farm, while the clerk was ordered to procure pre-emption filing on the lands selected for farm. In October, 1872, an inquest on the body of Maximilian Reed cost the county \$7.10, while the case of the State v. D. A. Smith cost about \$50.

April 13, I. N. Clark allowed five dollars for handcuffs for use of sheriff which seem to be the first of this class provided.

The first money voted for bridges seems to have been April 3rd, 1872, when three were ordered across School Creek, the sum of sixteen dollars each allowed for two and twenty-five dollars for the other.

The first tax levy seems to have been made July 1st, 1872, when the following were made: State school, two mills; State general,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mills; State sinking, one mill; State University,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mill; County general, six mills; County sinking, one mill; County court house, one mill; bridges, two mills each on the one dollar valuation.

The levy for this year of 1912 contemplated an expenditure of \$43,000 for county use as follows: General fund, \$27,000; bridges, \$12,000 and roads, \$4,000.

Additional to this is our state and local schools and city taxes. For state and county purposes alone the levy is eleven mills, and contemplates raising of around \$80,000. 1912 assessed value of the county is personal \$1,316,034 and for real estate \$1,094,145. Multiply these figures by five to get actual value as found by assessors.

On assuming the duties of their office, the commissioners decided by lot the length of time each should serve, the "long straw" going to A. K. Marsh by a three years service, P. O. Norman getting the two years, and A. A. Corey, the one year.

At the general state election held in October, 1872, M. L. Latham was elected to succeed Corey, who took his office in January, and on his resigning in May, 1873, Ezra Brown, was appointed in his place.

Later in the season P. O. Norman resigned and John B. Dinsmore served out his unexpired time of a few weeks, under the appointment by the board of commissioners. Louis Thayer was appointed surveyor, vice R. S. Fitzgerald deceased.

The May election in '72 called to vote bonds in aid of the building of the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad through the south part of our county, since known as the St. Joseph & Grand Island, called out a sharp contest and were defeated by a large majority, but the objective point for some years being Hastings, the road was built and while enjoying for many years a light business, was the primary influence that has made Hastings what it is as a railroad center having brought men of means and influence there, making it

what we believe it will ever remain, the leading city west from Lincoln, in the South Platte country.

Hastings was not a Burlington Railroad town, and they used their best endeavors to prevent giving it recognition, and we well recall the urgent demand in the fall of '72, sent to Murphy's men employed in building the bridge across the Platte river at Kearney, to go to Hastings and assist in preventing the St. Joseph from crossing the Burlington tracks, but they got in their crossings, as railroad companies do, and later the Burlington found it to their interest to build a station. The county seat was removed from the Burlington town of Juniata, to Hastings, and general peace and prosperity has seemed to generally "smile" on the united influences of all classes to make Hastings what we see it today, a city of some 10,000 people, the exact number by the census being 9,338.

April 2, 1872, commissioners show the appointment of Louis Thayer, Richard Bailey and John W. Royce as first judges, and George W. Noble and Daniel W. Evans, clerks of election for Little Blue, and Ezra Brown, J. W. Sargent and F. M. Davis judges, and Isaac J. Starbuck and S. I. Davis as clerk for Harvard, those for School Creek, not being given.

December 16th, 1872, James S. Schermerhorn was allowed \$4.00 a day for necessary time in his official capacity as superintendent of schools.

February 7th, 1872, Thurlow Weed was paid fifteen dollars by warrant No. 7, for money loaned the county, and J. R. Maltby, thirty-five dollars house rent, wood, etc.

July 2nd, 1872, P. T. Kearney was allowed twelve dollars and twenty cents for money expended in telegraphing after prisoner in murder case. W. F. McBride, was allowed one hundred seventy-five dollars for boarding prisoners as jailor of Otto County, Nebraska. J. R. Maltby, county judge, \$48.75 and rent from April 2nd to July 2nd and James S. Schermerhorn \$90.00 for July 1st, 1872.

August 17th, 1872, A. K. Marsh was instructed to purchase three ballot boxes for use of county, being one for each district and first bought.

November 16th, 1872, the first move was made to build a court house, by a motion instructing the county clerk to advertise for bids up to nine o'clock Saturday morning, November 30th, to build a two story wood building at Sutton.

October 1st, 1872, W. Cumming was allowed seven dollars and ten cents for holding inquest on the body of Maximilian Reed, which seems to have been the first inquest held in the county.

Two years having expired since the organization of the county, at the state election held October 8th, 1873, a full county ticket was nominated by the republican and democratic parties, resulting in the election of the republican ticket by good majorities, the ticket and vote being as follows, which we give to show the first ticket and closeness of the vote after the organization of the county: Ezra Brown, county commissioner, short term, 317 votes; O. G. Peck, 205; Richard Bayley, commissioner long term, 266; W. R. Stephens, 249; scattering 16. For county clerk, F. M. Brown, 288; R. L. Garr, 230; scattering 5. County Treasurer, F. M. Davis, 36; A. Tracy, 227; scattering 1. County Judge, E. P. Burnett, 375; Mark Percival, 125; scattering 1. Sheriff, John B. Dinsmore, 304; Daniel Cronan, 224; scattering 2. Coroner, Martin Clark, 390; Patrick Nagle, 143.

Surveyor, John T. Fleming 38; J. P. Scott, 154; J. E. Trout, 37; W. E. Crane, 30.

Superintendent of Schools, Daniel W. Garver, was elected by 375 votes over James S. Schermerhorn.

Thus early in the history of our county, one of the best tickets ever elected among the many good ones will at once be recognized by those acquainted with the men elected.

The various plats for the fourteen railroad towns in Clay County were filed in the following order:

Harvard, August 30th, 1872; Edgar, May 1st, 1873; Glenvil, August 2nd, 1873; Sutton, September 25th, 1873; Fairfield, July 11th, 1874; Clay Center, June 4th, 1879; Inland, December 29th, 1879; Saronville, November 29, 1882; Ong, May 11, 1886; Trumbull, June 2, 1886; Deweese, June 21, 1886. Verona filed as Sweden, March 8, 1888.

The 1910 official census gives three towns with a population less than 100; six between 100 and 304, the five larger towns, all cities of the second class as having over 1,000, being Sutton, 1702, Harvard, 1102, Edgar, 1080, Clay Center, 1065, and Fairfield, 1054.

Additional to these, there are three grain and stock stations, giving seven-teen grain and stock stations and markets in the county of twenty-four miles square with others just across the line in other counties, so it will be seen that markets for all purposes are close at hand.

#### THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS

At this point, the compiler is constrained to divert from Mr. Barbour's memoirs and research, and insert some of the important steps in the govern-ment of the county shown by the records of the fifteen years, elapsing between 1875 and 1890, which brings the county affairs down to a comparatively modern atmosphere and past the more formative period, but facts which were compiled and arranged from the county records by other parties, and are not attributable in style, accuracy or viewpoint to Mr. Barbour.

In February, 1874, the commissioners of Lancaster County were notified to return all poor people, residents of Clay County, to Clay County, or in default, bear the expense of keeping them. The final settlement with Treasurer Tracy was made and Treasurer F. M. Davis installed. On petition of L. S. Winters, of the Nebraska Land and Town Company, 50 per cent reduction in the assess-ment of the town site of Edgar was ordered, and a 25 per cent reduction made on the assessment of Sutton, except lots fronting on Sanders and Maltby Avenues. In July, 1874, the tax levy for State purposes was 7 mills, and for county general sinking and bridge funds, 12 mills, with a land road tax of \$4 per section, a pol. tax of \$2, and a dog tax of \$1 and \$2. A special 4 mill tax was levied in Little Blue, to meet interest on mill bonds; a lot of railroad ties (lying near Glenville), numbering 30,000, were assessed \$5,750, and the St. Joseph & Denver Railroad Company was notified that their 110 sections of land in this county would be placed on the assessment books and taxes levied thereon for 1873. On July 20, a resolution authorizing the building of a county jail was carried, and the price set at \$1,000. In December, contractor Ramsey turned over the jail building to

the commissioners, and on December 8, Judge Gantt was requested to open a special term of court for Clay County. C. M. Turner was commissioner at this time, vice Marsh.

On January 5, 1875, a resolution was presented by Ezra Brown, pointing out that the county seat was within one and one-half miles of the east line of the county; that it was located there when there were only about 100 voters in the county, and that a bill, similar to that which re-located the county seat of Saline County, fixing the seat of justice at some central point, was desirable. Mr. Bayly's motion to table this important resolution was acted upon without ceremony, and the second attempt to change the county seat was a victory for Sutton.

On March 1, 1875, the county was divided into sixteen precincts, each being a congressional township, and all numbered from one to sixteen; Township 8, Range 5, being No. 1, and Township 5, Range 5, being No. 16. The question of giving a name to each precinct was left to the voters of each. The question of aiding the Sutton Mill Company by the issue of \$5,000 10 per cent bonds was submitted to the people of precinct No. 8, Township 7, Range 5, April 6. The town of Edgar was incorporated March 15, and on April 19 names were given to the several townships, as follows: School Creek, Township 8, Range 5; Lincoln, Township 8, Range 6; Harvard, Township 8, Range 7; Leicester, Township 8, Range 8; Scott, Township 7, Range 8; Lynn, Township 7, Range 7; Lewis, Township 7, Range 6; Sutton, Township 7, Range 5; Sheridan, Township 6, Range 5; Marnall, Township 6, Range 6; Lone Tree, Township 6, Range 7; Glenville, Township 6, Range 8; Spring Ranche, Township 5, Range 8; Fairfield, Township 5, Range 7; Edgar, Township 5, Range 6; Logan, Township 5, Range 5.

The tax levy for 1875 amounted to almost  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mills for State and 9 mills for county purposes, apart from the \$4 land road tax, the \$2 poll tax and the \$1 and \$2 dog tax. The interest fund of Little Blue claimed a 2 mill tax. The tax levy for school purposes in twenty-nine of the fifty-nine districts ranged from 10 to 25 mills, being 10 mills in districts 1, 59 and 11; 20 mills in districts 39, 35, 31, 40, 49, 33, 18, 9, 46, 28, 52, 51, 32, 29, 16, 3, 15, and 4; 15 mills in districts 10, 17, and 36; 12 mills in district 41, and 25 mills in districts 5, 43, 26 and 37, being the only districts in which school taxes were levied in 1875. The building of two bridges over School Creek, one between Sections 1 and 2, Township 8, Range 7, one on Liberty Creek, Township 5, Range 7, one on Sandy Creek, Township 5, Range 6, and a second on Sections 13 and 14 of that Township, one on Sections 26 and 23, Township 5, Range 5, and one on Sections 22 and 23, Township 6, Range 7, were authorized.

On July 7, 1875, a petition (signed by 403 legal voters), asking that the question of re-location of the seat of justice be submitted to the people, was presented to the board. The commissioners ordered an election on the subject to be held August 14, 1875, and designated the place of meeting in each township. A second order on this election made the date September 20. The result of this election is unnoticed in the commissioners' record, but it is found in the election returns and given in a following chapter. O. P. Alexander was appointed sheriff in December, 1875, vice Dinsmore resigned to succeed F. M. Brown as county clerk.

The tax levy ordered in July, 1876, shows  $7\frac{3}{4}$  mills for State purposes and

11 for county purposes, with the usual \$4 land road tax; the school district tax averaged 20 mills. During the fall of this year the construction of several iron and wooden bridges was authorized. In October, M. Estes, E. H. Birdsall, J. D. Bain, V. L. Carr, Lyons Brothers, C. K. Morrell, Orlo W. Birmingham, Henry Keller, H. H. Disbrow, Louis Stien, W. A. Farmer, J. W. French, J. W. Jacobson, T. J. Dowd, J. Geohring, S. M. Risly, C. D. Moon, T. J. Glover, W. H. Hammond, Jared Burdick, L. C. Howard, W. A. Birdsall, Erastus Austin, W. E. Welton, P. M. Colvard and I. D. Howard proposed to the commissioners that in case the people would select Harvard as the county seat at the election to be held in November, they would move the records and other property of the county (except the court house) thereto, grant one block of land to the county, provide county offices and court room until January 1, 1878, and pay \$1,000 for the old court house building. This proposition was accepted, subject to the necessary vote in November. In November Thomas W. Brookbank, superintendent of schools, resigned and J. R. Maltby was appointed.

The tax levy for State purposes made in July, 1877, was 10 $\frac{3}{8}$  mills and 11 mills for county purposes. The school district levy did not exceed 25 mills, and there is no record of poll, land, road or dog tax made. In November the question of township organization was submitted. In January, 1878, Flavius Northrop qualified as commissioner, vice C. M. Turner retired; and E. B. Howard succeeded Dinsmore as clerk. A notice was ordered to be served on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company to appear before the board on April 2, 1878, and show why 560 acres of their lands in Section 22, Township 5, Range 8, should not be taxed. In reply to this notice the following letter was received from A. E. Touzalin, land commissioner of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad:

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 4, 1878.

Ezra E. Howard, Esq., Sutton, Neb.

Dear Sir: Your letter is received. We will waive notice in the matter of which you speak, and take no advantage thereon of the non-serving of the same. I would like to say to the officers of Clay County, that if the system of paying for school bonds is allowed to be carried out, as in school district 37, we shall not only oppose it in every way we can as an illegal and unjust matter, but it will do the most serious injury to the county, and prevent the occupation of the railroad lands therein. The interest of the county and the company are mutual in this matter, and we hope that you will act with us in getting these large payments compromised by extensions over a long period of time.

Yours truly,

A. E. TOUZALIN.

W. K.

The tax levy of July, 1878, was 7  $\frac{1}{12}$  mills for State, and 11 mills for county purposes. The sum of \$260 was paid to James Laird for collecting taxes from the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company, and his contract price for collections from the St. Joseph & Denver Railroad Company. The taxes for 1874-75-76 against the latter road were ordered to be struck from the books per decree of court.

On August 19, 1878, a petition by P. M. Colvard and 602 others praying that the liquor license be reduced to \$50 was met by a remonstrance by Miss Alice Houlgate and 106 others, and A. L. Lamont and 642 others against reduction. The commissioners fixed the fee at \$33 per annum, and the 750 remonstrants were happy.

On January 13, 1879, W. R. Hamilton, R. Bayley and Flavius Northrop took their seats as commissioners. The canvas of the vote on the re-location of the county seat was considered. The election on this question was held January 9, 1879. Of the total vote, 2,310, Clay Center received 1,293, and Harvard 1,015. No place having received three-fifths of all the votes cast, a new election was ordered to be held February 20, 1879, Clay Center, Harvard and Sutton being the competitors. It was further ordered to submit the question of levying a 3-mill tax in 1879 and 1880 for the purpose of creating a court house and jail fund. This election was duly held, but only 1,937 votes were cast, of which Clay Center received 1,376, or more than three-fifths vote. On April 1 the commissioners declared Clay Center to be the seat of justice, and ordered the county offices, records, etc., to be removed thither on or before May 1, 1879. The vote on the building-fund tax was 1,339 or a three-fifths vote. That day a contract was sold to F. A. Pyle and W. D. Young to erect a temporary court house for \$2,250, and complete the same before May 1, 1879. The clerk was ordered to advertise for bids to erect a \$7,000 county building, before the ink with which the agreement for the first building was written was dry.

#### ON COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS

Considerable has already been said concerning the various county seat contests, which kept Sutton on the defensive from the very beginning until the "prize" was finally awarded to a new-born community in the center of the county. Before this period of the development of the county, or the narrative of its governmental affairs is entirely passed by, it is not amiss to divert and give still another viewpoint of this struggle, such as given to the compiler by Robert G. Brown, and setting out perhaps from still another angle, the "Sutton viewpoint"; Mr. Barbour has already touched upon the motives that prompted Sutton to hold on as long as possible and Harvard to desire, whether she could hold the prize permanently or not. The first election on August 14, 1875, wherein Sutton, Harvard, Fairfield and the center of the county has already been treated resulted in nothing final. The law then provided that where three or more places were voted upon, the three receiving the greatest number of votes should be the places submitted to the vote of the people at another election, and the two receiving the greatest number at this election should be voted upon at still another contest, and the one then receiving three-fifths of the vote cast should be the county seat.

Accordingly, Sutton, Harvard and Fairfield were the points submitted at an election held on September 20, 1875. On the count of the vote, that of Edgar Precinct, in favor of Fairfield, was thrown out for fraud. The vote was re-canvassed October 5 by a board composed of J. B. Dinsmore, Cyrus Stayner and E. P. Burnett, and on a mandamus sued out by citizens of Harvard, the vote



of Edgar Precinct was counted, the vote standing: Sutton, 497; Harvard, 391; Fairfield, 355. Another election was necessary to decide the matter between Sutton and Harvard, which was held on the 7th of November, 1876, and stood as follows: Sutton, 606 votes; Harvard, 802; neither place receiving three-fifths of all votes cast, no removal was effected. The attempt to remove the seat of government was not again made until January 9, 1879, at which time no change was effected. The law had been changed and now required that the place for which the highest number of votes was cast should be the county seat.

Another election was held February 20 of that year, and, upon the count of the vote by the election board, the vote of Harvard Precinct was thrown out on general principles of fraud, and because the returns were not good returns, not being certified and sworn to by the Judges of the Election, as is required by law, and for other informalities.

Harvard's enemies were jubilant over this result, and the County Commissioners made declaration that the county seat was at Clay Center, ordering the county officers to remove their offices, records, etc., to that place. In obedience to this order, all went, except E. P. Burnett, County Judge, who refused.

On July 14, 1879, John M. Mills filed letters of impeachment before the Commissioners against Judge Burnett, for his refusal to comply with the order made by that body. A summons was served upon Burnett to appear before the Commissioners and show cause for his non-removal. Burnett filed a long answer, setting forth his reasons for refusing. This, however, did not serve to satisfy the judgment of the Commissioners, and accordingly, on the 22d of July, 1879, Judge Burnett was impeached from office. The office of County Judge was then declared vacant, and W. S. Priekett was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Soon after this action of the County Commissioners declaring the office of County Judge vacant, a mandamus was issued by the Supreme Court compelling the County Clerk to remove his office and records back to Sutton. The Clerk obeyed this order, and the other county officers who had taken up their abode at Clay Center followed him and removed back to Sutton.

At the next meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held at Sutton about September 1, 1879, they passed a resolution expunging from their records the record of all proceedings against Judge E. P. Burnett; whereupon the Judge took possession of his office and records that had previously been ordered from him.

After the county seat had been declared to be at Clay Center, a party of men with teams and wagons proceeded to Sutton on a Sunday night, seized the county records, the Treasurer's safe, etc., loaded them into the wagons and took them to Clay Center, in the act of doing which one of the party lost a horse, having died from over exhaustion. Great rejoicing was indulged in over the result, by those friendly to the change, while the defeated Harvard party remained dejected and crestfallen. On the 31st of October, 1879, a celebration was held in Clay Center, a barbecue was prepared, speeches were made, songs were sung, bands of music played the march of victory and the day was spent in general jollification.

The detailed vote, by precincts, as shown by the county records, in these various elections, is a matter worthy of permanent record, so is herein incorporated.

The vote at the first of the series of county seat elections for August 14, 1875 was as follows:

	Sutton	Harvard	Fairfield	Center of County
School Creek.....	83	...	...	1
Lincoln.....	21	44	...	...
Harvard.....	...	126	...	...
Leicester.....	...	41	...	...
Scott.....	...	62	...	...
Lynn.....	...	53	1	12
Lewis.....	19	15	...	12
Sutton.....	169	2	...	1
Sheridan.....	10	...	...	9
Marshall.....	2	...	17	23
Lone Tree.....	...	...	36	8
Glenville.....	...	3	57	...
Spring Ranche.....	...	3	68	...
Fairfield.....	...	...	87	...
Edgar.....	...	7	15	40
Logan.....	...	2	...	41
Total.....	313	349	282	146

The vote of the next County Seat election September 20, 1875, with John B. Dinsmore, E. P. Burnett, Cyrus Stayner, clerks, was as follows:

	Sutton	Harvard	Fairfield
School Creek.....	76	...	...
Lincoln.....	30	55	...
Harvard.....	...	127	...
Leicester.....	...	50	1
Scott.....	...	69	5
Lynn.....	...	62	12
Lewis.....	28	19	1
Sutton.....	227	2	1
Sheridan.....	45	...	...
Marshall.....	17	1	30
Lone Tree.....	2	...	43
Glenville.....	...	1	60
Spring Ranche.....	...	3	67
Fairfield.....	...	...	90
Edgar.....	43	1	33
Logan.....	29	1	12
Total.....	497	391	355

## HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

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The vote of the next County seat election January 9, 1879, with L. R. Grimes and B. R. Roy as clerks, was as follows:

	Clay Center	Harvard
School Creek .....	117	8
Lincoln .....	7	106
Harvard .....	1	504
Leicester .....	...	115
Scott .....	...	105
Lynn .....	10	103
Lewis .....	56	32
Sutton .....	404	4
Sheridan .....	79	...
Marshall .....	70	1
Lone Tree .....	57	1
Glenville .....	48	21
Spring Ranche .....	62	8
Fairfield .....	145	7
Edgar .....	166	...
Logan .....	71	...
Total .....	1293	1015

The result of the February 20, 1879, election was:

	Clay Center	Harvard
Logan .....	77	...
Edgar .....	185	3
Fairfield .....	162	5
Spring Ranche .....	77	3
Glenville .....	56	17
Lone Tree .....	63	5
Marshall .....	71	...
Sheridan .....	77	...
Sutton .....	421	4
Lewis .....	48	41
Lynn .....	11	102
Scott .....	2	95
Leicester .....	...	170
Lincoln .....	5	107
School Creek .....	121	9
Total .....	1376	561

This election was nullified by the vote of Harvard being thrown out.

The vote of the final county seat election upon November 4, 1879, with Ezra E. Howard, L. R. Grimes and Martin Clark as clerks, was as follows:

	Clay Center	Harvard
School Creek .....	143	14
Lincoln .....	30	120
Harvard .....	1	1064
Leicester .....	1	226
Scott .....	2	113
Lynn .....	7	134
Lewis .....	45	72
Sutton .....	878	8
Sheridan .....	87	2
Marshall .....	95	2
Lone Tree .....	68	17
Glenville .....	58	36
Spring Ranche .....	69	20
Fairfield .....	164	34
Edgar .....	243	5
Logan .....	76	...
Total .....	1967	1867

#### SUTTON'S RELINQUISHMENT OF HOPE

Mr. Robert G. Brown, in looking back upon still further phases of the protracted county seat struggle, recalls that by the time the 1879 campaign started the people of Sutton had become convinced that the county seat "prize" would go to the very persistent and energetic Harvard unless "the center of the county" should eventually win out. Whereupon Sutton citizens, led by Mr. Brown, set out to induce the homesteaders in the vicinity of the present Clay Center to have a town surveyed and platted there and give it a name, so Sheriff O. P. Alexander was prompted to assist, eighty acres were surveyed and Clay Center was started. It was not desired the "hand of Sutton" appear openly, so the names of parties from elsewhere in the county were pressed forward as the sponsors for the new community. Brown went to Harvard and got Flanagan, the county surveyor, and they drove down to Clay Center and chose the ground. It was in the season of heavy snows; they went to a neighbors and secured some laths and sticks that could be stuck in the snow drifts, and then returned to Harvard, from whence Brown returned home by train. Mr. F. A. Kyle was secured to make a map of this new Clay Center, and Mr. Alexander signed and dedicated the townsite and filed the plat with the county clerk. Thus Clay Center came into existence, with the county and county property devised and bequeathed to it so far as Sutton could direct. While the succeeding contests started out nominally with Harvard, Sutton and Clay Center as contestants, Fairfield having already surrendered hopes, Sutton soon dropped out and left the final contest between Harvard and Clay Center, with Sutton assisting to stack the cards against Har-

vard, and while it thereby lost the county seat, it may have materially assisted in saving some of its commercial strength from going to Harvard.

In some of the county seat elections the size of the vote polled was rather difficult to reconcile with the population of the county and various communities at that time. Mr. Brown recalls one election in which Harvard polled some 1,100 or 1,200 votes, a number greater than her population was in those days. Sutton polled around 800 or so, being also more than she could legitimately show in population, and the returns would indicate that the balance of the county also had the "stuffing" habit when feeding the ballot boxes.

#### COUNTY SEAT LEAVES SUTTON

The hauling of the county records in wagons to Clay Center has already been recounted. But before leaving this point, we might still farther divert to include Mr. Brown's reminiscence of the establishment of the first county building at Sutton. When the establishment of the county had been completed in October, 1871, there was no county building in which to do business. Robert G. Brown thereupon built a little "shack" of an office building, as his brother had been appointed county clerk and he soon assumed the office of county treasurer himself, and rented it to the county. This building was about 300 feet east of where he later maintained his office, and about where the residence of Gus Bender now stands in Sutton. Being a two story building, the second story was used as a courtroom, with the offices downstairs, and when the county seat was removed to Clay Center it no longer remained the "county governmental home."

Mr. Brown narrates another little incident which is colorful of political problems of the earliest days. The first political caucus was attended by A. K. Marsh, F. M. Brown, J. R. Maltby, A. A. Corey and R. G. Brown, who chose Sutton as the county seat, and took upon themselves to name the first ticket of county officers to be submitted to the people of the county. All of that ticket there named was elected, but Hollingsworth, the county treasurer-elect, refused to qualify, as personal security for the bond was necessary, and R. G. Brown was thereupon slated for the treasurership. He had purchased a lot which made him a freeholder in order to sign the official bonds. French signed Brown's bond and then French and Brown together being the only freeholders handled the bonding matter together. The lot purchased by Brown of French for laying the foundation for these manœuvres is represented by the deed recorded in Book One at Page One, of the Deed Records of Clay County.

#### THE EARLY EIGHTIES

Returning to the county governmental activities of 1879, and the early eighties, we find among other interesting events:—

That on May 5, 1879, Commissioner W. R. Hamilton made the following resolution in regard to counting the Harvard vote in a late county seat election: "Whereas it appears by the records in the clerk's office of Clay county, that the Harvard precinct vote cast at the election, February 20, 1879, for the location of the county seat of said county, has been rejected by the board of

canvassers, and whereas it appears that a pre-emptory writ of mandamus has been granted by the supreme court of the State to Ezra E. Howard, clerk of said county, commanding him to forthwith call to his assistance two disinterested electors, and re-canvass and abstract the entire vote cast at said election, including the rejected Harvard precinct vote, and whereas it appears by the records that the said writ has been served for about a space of twenty days, and that said re-canvass has not been made, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the board of county commissioners, do request and advise the immediate re-canvass of said vote, as commanded in said writ." Later the injunction suit of L. A. Payne vs. R. Bayley was commenced, and a special June term asked for by the county commissioners, to hasten judgment in the cause. On May 21, the last meeting was held at Sutton, when Rev. C. F. Graves was appointed surveyor. The first meeting of the commissioners, held at Clay Center, was that of June 2, 1879. The trial of E. P. Burnett, by the commissioners, was concluded July 23, 1879, when he was found guilty as charged in the complaint of J. M. Mills, and removed from the office of county judge. His motion for a new trial was overruled; W. S. Prickett was appointed county judge. C. A. Melvin was instructed to bring records and seals to Clay Center.

In July, M. S. Edgington and fourteen others, taxpayers of Edgar precinct, petitioned to the board to appoint a day for voting upon the question of granting \$12,000 aid to the Nebraska & Kansas Railroad Company for building a road from Edgar to Superior.

On September 1, 1879, the commissioners met at Sutton, when E. P. Burnett was re-appointed county judge vice W. S. Prickett, resigned, and a resolution was adopted ordering that the record of proceedings in the case of his impeachment be expunged or erased, and that he be given possession of books, etc., belonging to the office. The meeting of September 15 and October 7 were also held at Sutton. On the latter day bids for a \$1,000 poor-house building were asked for. On November 4, 1879, a new vote on the re-location of the county seat showed a decisive majority for Clay Center, and the board declared it to be the county seat and ordered the removal of all officers, records, etc., thereto, on or before January 1, 1880. Bids for building courthouse and jail and poorhouse were re-advertised for in the Edgar Review and Fairfield News. On December 15, W. D. Young contracted to build the poorhouse. The first meeting of the commissioners at Clay Center under the "New law" was held January 6, 1880. Messrs. Hamilton, Bayly and Northrop formed the board. W. J. Keller qualified as clerk, to succeed E. E. Howard; George H. Van Duyne, as treasurer, to succeed W. S. Randall; and J. P. Nixon, sheriff, to succeed A. J. McPeak. L. A. Varney was appointed surveyor, John G. Nuss, coroner, and E. P. Burnett qualified as county judge. The proposition of J. W. Lewis to bore the county well at forty cents per foot was accepted. On February 6, George E. Birge was appointed to make an examination of the treasurer's books, from the beginning of the county to January 10, 1880, and on June 24, D. M. Leland was appointed superintendent of courthouse construction. W. D. Young was building contractor.

The courthouse was completed November 30, 1880, and Pedro Dominicus appointed janitor. Later that year John D. Hayes was appointed county attorney, and in 1881, C. Stayner, with W. R. Hamilton and R. Bayly, formed

the board. C. J. Martin was appointed county judge August 8, vice E. P. Burnett, absent.

In January, 1882, Ezra Brown, with Messrs. Stayner and Bayly, were commissioners; Louis F. Fryar, clerk, and J. P. Nixon, sheriff. Of the commissioners, Bayly was the only one who went through the vicissitudes of county seat wars and still held that office. In June of this year the tax levy was made 6½ mills county general; 3 mills road; 3 mills bridge and ½ mill insane hospital, or a total of 13 mills. The additional levy in the incorporated towns was as follows: Sutton, 8 mills; Edgar, 5 mills; Harvard, 10 mills, and Fairfield, 7 mills. The number of school districts was 70, the levy running from 3½ to 25 mills. In November the names of members of Company B were stricken from the list of poll-tax payers, and in December the contract for removing the old county jail from Sutton to the poor farm was sold to B. H. Corwin for \$49.99, and the offer of Sutton village to pay \$125 for the building rejected.

In 1883 J. M. Farley, William Newton and C. Stayner were commissioners; the county bridge and road taxes amounted to 11⅜ mills per dollar; the additional levy for Harvard was 9 mills, for Fairfield and Sutton, 8 mills, and for Edgar, 5 mills. Of the 70 school districts taxes were levied in all except numbers 5, 22 and 33. In September the question of township organization was ordered to be submitted to the people on November 6, that year. The vote denied the proposition, and Messrs. Newton, Farley and Fred Grosshans formed the new board of commissioners. E. P. Burnett was elected judge; G. F. Dickson, treasurer, and E. G. Groff, surveyor.

In November, 1884, the question of selling Block 24, in the town of Sutton, and with it the old courthouse, was voted upon. The property was ordered to be sold at auction in April, 1885.

John B. Dinsmore was appointed commissioner of Clay County, to exhibit products of Clay County at New Orleans. In January, 1885, Joseph Myer took Commissioner Newton's place. In August, 1885, a new wind-mill and tower were ordered to be erected in place of the old mill and tower, said to be broken and useless.

In January, 1886, the estimated expenditures for the year, for general, road, bridge and insane hospital purposes, were placed at \$32,000. The tax levy made in June amounted to 10 mills per dollar; while an additional levy of 8 mills was made in Fairfield and Edgar, and a special lot tax in Harvard. At this time the judgment of the supreme court in the case of forcing the payment of \$400 in 10 per cent bonds, issued by original school district No. 22, Sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, Township 5, Range 7, was discussed. A special assessment of 15 mills was made on the two first named sections, and 14 mills on the last numbered sections. On July 28, an election was ordered in School Creek, Sutton, Lewis, Lone Tree and Fairfield precincts, to vote bonds to the Kansas City & Omaha Railroad Company. The petition was signed by fifty-six tax payers, and the vote was ordered to be recorded September 2. At this time Sutton petitioned to have an election on the question of issuing \$20,000 bonds. School Creek gave 129 votes for and 1 contra; Sutton, 352 for and 1 contra; Lone Tree, 187 for and 24 contra; Lewis, 132 for and 35 contra; Fairfield, 305 for and 88 contra. Spring Rancho, Lincoln, Inland and Harvard precincts

petitioned on a similar question affecting the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, and gave almost a unanimous vote in favor of the proposition. Francis Abbey, with Messrs. Farley and Meyer, were commissioners in 1887.

In June, 1887, a county, bridge, road and insane tax of 19 mills was levied, with 7 mills on Lone Tree, Fairfield, Spring Ranche and Glenville (originally forming Little Blue), to meet indebtedness on bonds of September 9 and October 1, 1873, in accordance with writ of supreme court, issued November 24, 1886. The tax to provide interest on railroad bonds in the several precincts was as follows: Fairfield, 5 mills; Lone Tree, Lewis and Sutton,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mills; School Creek and Lewis,  $2\frac{2}{5}$  mills; Lone Tree,  $2\frac{4}{5}$  mills; Sutton  $2\frac{9}{10}$  mills; Fairfield, 4 mills, and School Creek, 2 mills. Special assessments were also made in Sutton and Harvard for the purpose of constructing sidewalks, together with a 10 mill tax on Clay Centre and Fairfield, and 3 mills on Harvard (villages) to meet interest on bonds. A village tax of  $9\frac{3}{4}$  mills on Sutton; 8 mills on Harvard and 10 mills on Edgar was also authorized, and a levy for school purposes ranging from 3 to 25 mills made on the seventy-two of the seventy-three school districts then organized, together with special levy in six of the districts to meet bonds and interest on bonds.

In April, 1888, Commissioner Abbey resigned, and Fred Grosshans was chosen to represent the First district. The levy was fixed at 10 mills for general and other purposes, including 7-10 mill to meet judgment in favor of Young in the matter of court house; the interest and sinking fund tax, on the townships granting railroad aid, was heavy, and a special levy of 7 mills was made on Spring Ranche to meet judgment of court. The levy for the villages reached  $23\frac{6}{10}$  mills in the case of Edgar; Harvard, 11 mills; Sutton, 7 mills, and 10 mills for Clay Center and petitioned the board to submit the question of township organization to the people in November, and an order was made in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners, and on November 21, the first meeting of the board of supervisors was held; Ezra Brown was chosen president. The names given to the Congressional townships April 19, 1875, were retained except in the case of Township 7, Range 8, changed from Scott to Inland; committees were appointed. Clinton Davis was appointed superintendent of poor farm.

Supervisors elected in 1889 were J. E. Marsh, of School Creek; (Eldorado, new name of Lincoln, held over); William Schwenk, Harvard; C. S. Bradley, Harvard Township; (Lieberster, held over); Charles Schwenk, Inland; (Lynn, held over); M. S. Price, Lewis; H. S. Sanders, Sutton; P. H. Schwab, Sutton City; Ezra Brown, Harvard City; Josiah Everett, Sheridan; (Marshall, held over); B. W. Campbell, Lone Tree; (Glenville, held over); D. W. Evans, Spring Ranche; Jacob Shively, Fairfield City; (Fairfield Township, held over); William M. Rousey, Edgar; W. R. Fuller, Edgar City, and C. A. Bush, Logan. In January, 1889, this board authorized the employment of expert accountants to examine the books of the treasurer, who filled the office prior to Mr. Walter's time. Messrs. Palmquist and Gratz were employed at \$12 per day.

#### MR. BARBOUR'S RESUME' OF COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

At this point, we will return to the text of Mr. Barbour's resumé and condensed summary of the governmental affairs of Clay County, as heretofore noted, inserting in brackets the additional rosters that bring the officiate down to 1921.



## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The County Commissioners elected in 1891 were:

E. A. McVey, School Creek.	James Hart, Fairfield.
C. S. Bradley, Harvard.	Frank L. Young, Edgar City.
John Flick, Inland.	P. H. Schwab, Sutton City.
John P. Skow, Lewis.	1893
Chris. Peterson, Sheridan.	John Benson, School Creek.
D. W. Garver, Lone Tree.	C. S. Bradley, Harvard.
Geo. Krell, Spring Rancho.	Anderson Eller, Edgar.
Anderson Eller, Edgar.	John Flick, Inland.
1892	L. F. Fryor, Lone Tree.
John Ochsner, Eldorado.	George Krell, Spring Rancho.
H. S. Siefken, Leicester.	Wm. Newton, Lynn.
Chas. Hoebet, Lynn.	Patrick Nagle, Sheridan.
Oscar Swanson, Sutton.	John B. P. Skow, Lewis.
A. P. Randall, Marshall.	James Hart, Fairfield City.
J. E. Wilcox, Glenville.	W. H. McBride, Harvard City.
D. P. Strait, Fairfield.	Nicholas Ochsner, Sutton City.
Wm. Shively, Logan.	Frank S. Young, Edgar City.
W. H. McBride, Harvard.	

Those elected in 1893 were, John Ochsner, H. C. Brown, C. S. Bradley, John Flick, A. P. Randall, George Krell and C. A. Bush, who served during 1894 and 1895.

Those elected to serve in 1896 and 1897 were: John Benson, Tobias Speich, Ezra Brown, G. F. Smith, A. P. Randall, W. A. Lewis, and C. A. Bush. The Board for 1898 were Benson, Speich, Culver, Lewis, Walker, with M. J. McDermott and J. E. Wilcox as new members. In the election of 1898, Benson and Bradley was re-elected and J. H. Richert and J. H. Hazlett came on the board. The election of 1899 returned McDermott and brought on Ernest Ormsby and George A. Wheeler. In 1900 and 1901 the Board was R. E. Ferris, M. J. McDermott, Geo. C. Fishback, E. Ormsby, John Emrich, G. A. Wheeler and J. H. Hazlett. In 1902 and 1903, L. S. Backus, Chas. Shuck, L. F. Fryar, Geo. Krell and C. F. Bush, with Benson and McDermott remaining, comprised the Board. J. G. Lohmeier, Peter Walther and W. A. Lewis were elected in the fall of 1903; In the fall of 1904 the other places on the board were awarded by the electorate to Horae Iliff, Wm. Schwenk, W. B. Smith and S. C. Beck. The Board elected to serve in 1906 and 1907 were A. W. Clark, P. W. Walther and W. A. Lewis, and the four holdovers. In 1907, Clark, Walther, John Myler were elected to serve with Beck, Fryar, A. G. Johnson and Schwenk. In 1908, Roberts, Schwenk, Fryar and Peterson were elected. The Board of 1909 were W. J. Roberts, A. W. Clark, Wm. Schwenk, Smith Ingalsbe, F. A. Thompson, John Myler and Christian Peterson. The Supervisors serving in 1911 and 1912 were Ochsner, Ingalsbe, Thompson, Clark, Myler, Bottom and Schwenk. In the fall of 1912 Ochsner and Thompson were re-elected and Westering defeated Bottom. The Board elected in 1914 and serving in 1915 and 1916 were, Geo. England, A. W. Clark, G. C. Fishback, Smith Ingalsbe, Philip Schwab, Frank Westering, and John Myler. In 1918, Westering, Fishback, Schwab and

England were still serving, and the new members were O. W. Challburg, J. H. Itzen and James Ziggafoos. This same Board served in 1919 and 1920.

#### COUNTY CLERK

The County Clerks of Clay County have been F. M. Brown, who was first clerk, appointed in 1871, and in 1873 defeated F. M. Davis, 54 to 33 votes; and in 1873 defeated R. L. Garr, 280 to 230 votes; and in 1875 J. B. Dinsmore was elected. In 1877, Ezra E. Howard secured 580 votes over Joseph Flick, 300 votes. W. J. Keller defeated Howard in 1879. L. F. Fryar was chosen in 1883-1885. J. E. Wheeler was chosen in 1887, and H. E. Stein was elected in 1889. In 1891, H. E. Stein was elected; in 1893, George Mitchell. George Mitchell was chosen in 1895, and in 1897, W. B. Smith served, George Mitchell again serving until 1903, when W. W. Campbell took the office. W. F. Griess served from 1906, until Ward K. Newcomb took office in 1910 and served until Ernest Frissh, the present incumbent, assumed office in 1917.

#### COUNTY TREASURER

J. Hollingsworth, first county treasurer elected in 1871, did not qualify, and R. G. Brown took over the office. F. M. Davis was elected in 1873; and re-elected in 1875; William S. Randall was elected in 1877, and J. P. Nixon was elected in 1879, and G. H. Van Duynes in 1881; George F. Dickson was chosen in 1883, and E. G. Groff in 1885; William Walters was elected in 1887, and John G. Glazier in 1889. In 1891 John L. Hodges was elected; in 1893, Geo. A. Shike. George A. Shike was chosen in 1895, and Theo Griess in 1899; F. T. Swanson was elected in 1903, and Wm. Ochsner in 1907; Ed Westering in 1909, and he was re-elected in 1911; William Griess was elected in 1915, and Clarence P. Avery in 1919, and he was succeeded by Miss E. M. Bengtson, and in 1921, H. J. Platz became treasurer.

#### CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

D. T. Phillips was elected in 1879; C. J. Martin in 1883; L. F. Fryar was chosen in 1887; D. B. Gillette in 1893; George A. Allen in 1897, and Allen served until 1909, when W. B. Smith took the office, and he served until 1917, when Thos. A. Seifken was elected. In 1918, O. McKelvie served a short time, and he was defeated for election by A. J. Moger, at whose death Mamie Dedrickson was appointed and filled the office until the present incumbent, Wayne Moger, took office.

#### SHERIFF

P. T. Kearney served from the organization of the county, October 14th, 1871, to January 1, 1874, one term; John B. Dinsmore, January, 1874, to January, 1876; O. P. Alexander, January, 1876, to January, 1878; A. J. McPeak, January, 1878, to January, 1880; J. P. Nixon, January, 1884; J. R. Kidd, January, 1884, to January, 1888; E. D. Davis, January, 1888, to January, 1896; Guy Secord, January, 1896, to January, 1902; R. H. Smith, January,

1902, to January, 1906; J. C. Ward, January, 1906, to January, 1908; C. O. Sanderson, January, 1908, to present, term now elected for expiring January, 1914. P. G. Bonnefield succeeded Sanderson and in 1919 Guy W. Secord, present incumbent, succeeded him.

#### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

J. Schermerhorn, October 14, 1871, to January 1, 1874; Daniel W. Garvar, January 1, 1874, to January 1, 1876; F. W. Brookbank, January 1, 1876, to time of resignation during term of, as we recall, second year, when he resigned and Judge Maltby was appointed to fill balance of term to January, 1878; Rev. I. D. Newell, January, 1878, to January, 1884; A. A. Randall, January, 1884 to January, 1888; J. N. Hursh, January, 1888 to January, 1892; N. M. Graham, January, 1892, to January, 1898; Charles Jester, January, 1898, to January, 1904; Charles Coons, January, 1904, to summer of 1907, when he resigned and R. V. Clark was appointed to his place who served balance of term to January, 1908; Miss Edith A. Lathrop, January, 1908, to January, 1914; Miss Mabel E. Kirk served 1917-1919, then Roy J. Gilkeson to date, 1921.

#### CORONERS

W. Cunning it would seem held this office from organization till January, 1874, when Dr. Martin Clark, of Sutton, took the office, holding till January, 1882. J. G. Nuss, 1882 to January, 1884; Jesse F. Eller, January, 1884, to January, 1888; S. M. Elder, January, 1888, to January, 1892; Henry Hoyt, January, 1892, to January, 1894; Dr. O. P. Shoemaker, January, 1894, to January, 1896; Dr. A. J. Jenison, January, 1896, to January, 1898; Dr. D. F. Andrews, January, 1898, to January, 1900; Dr. A. R. Ray, January, 1900, to January, 1902; Dr. H. H. Schlutz, January, 1902, to January, 1906; Dr. I. D. Howard, January, 1906, to January, 1912; Dr. H. H. Schultz, January, 1912, to January, 1914.

#### COUNTY JUDGE

J. R. Maltby from organization of county, October 14, 1871, to January, 1874; E. P. Bennett, January, 1874, to January, 1886, when he declined the nomination for the seventh term, in convention held in 1885, and Richard Darustead was nominated, who took office January, 1886, serving till his death in 1887, about May or June, when John Epperson acted by special appointment till Wm. H. Canfield was appointed to office, his first order appearing of date August 30th, 1887; Canfield being elected continuously till the election of 1897, when he was defeated by H. C. Palmer, who took office January, 1898, holding twelve years, six terms, vacating office January, 1910, when he was "routed" by L. B. Stiner, who is now serving his second election to terminate January, 1914.

(J. F. Logan, 1915-1918; J. E. Ray, 1918-May, 1920, resigned; H. Chalmers, May, 1920, to January, 1921, and A. C. Krebs present incumbent.)

## SURVEYOR

R. S. Fitzgerald, October 14, 1871, to January, 1874; John T. Fleming, January, 1874, to January, 1876; M. S. Edington, January, 1876, to January, 1878; Wm. A. Gunn, January, 1878, to January, 1880; A. Y. Wright, January, 1880, to January, 1882; L. A. Varner, January, 1882 to some time in 1882, when he removed from the county and E. G. Goff was appointed to fill vacancy and after elected, serving terms to January, 1898; W. A. Summers, January, 1898, to January, 1900. C. W. Prickett, January, 1900, to January, 1914. (Hallie A. Sheets succeeded Prickett.)

As we recall it, all officers elected prior to the fall election of 1879 were Republicans, but at this election the re-location of the county seat was paramount to all other interests, party lines were broken down and the Democrats got most of the offices, those saved to the Republicans being county judge, superintendent of schools, surveyor and coroner.

Since this election in 1879, if we are not in error, the Democrats could number as of their party, H. C. Palmer, county judge; Keller, Mitchell and Newcomb, county clerks. Phillips and Gillett, district clerks of court; Van Duyn, Griess, Swanson, Ochsner and Westering, treasurers; Nixon, Seacord and Sanderson, sheriffs; Graham, Jester, Clark and Lathrop, superintendents of schools; Hoyt and Elder, coroners, with Sumner, surveyor.

At times the election has been close and much interest manifest but usually the most friendly feeling has prevailed between both parties, much of the success to the Democratic party being fairly attributed to the uniting of the Democrats with the Populists for officers, while some so-called Democrats might have been designated Populists in their election.

It will be noted that the Democrats have "good hold on the treasurer's office and have guarded well the finances of the county, and it may be said to the credit of all treasurers that there never has been any defalcation, all treasurers having safely protected this office and made proper returns on terminating their office."

Again, as we look over the forty-one years of county life, we are unable to find any "blot" on the record of any office by reason of bad management thereof, and think the voters of the county have just reason to feel proud of the general record their officers have made from the organization to this date.

We have given names of the Democrats elected to office, because "there were fewer names to record," and for those that were Republicans, if you are to know, turn to general list of each office.

Previous to 1887, the state was working under the district attorney plan that is a district attorney for the judicial district was elected, each two years, but the legislature of 1885 changed this law, providing that each county organized for judicial purposes, should elect a county attorney who should hold his office for the term of two years, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Complying with this law, at the general election of 1886, B. F. McLoney was elected, who served from January, 1887, to January, 1889. Others elected to present time are, John L. Epperson, 1889 to January, 1891; Wm. Clark, 1891, to January, 1893; John L. Epperson, 1893 to 1895; A. C. Epperson, son

of John L., January, 1895, to January, 1899; Mark Spanogle, January, 1899 to January, 1901; A. C. Epperson, January, 1901, to January, 1905; L. B. Stiner, January, 1905, to January, 1909; M. L. Corey, January, 1909, to January, 1917; 1917-1923, Cloyd L. Stewart.

Those who had previously served as judicial district attorneys for Clay county, and in the order in which they came as far as we have been able to find, were: A. J. Weaver, J. W. Eller, J. P. Maul, Wm. H. Morris, George W. Bemis, and Manford Savage.

*District Judges*—The first district courts of which we find a record, is in Ch. 13, Sec. 40, Page 53, of the laws of 1867, and provides that the counties of Douglas, Sarpy and Dodge, with the counties and territory west thereof, shall constitute the first judicial district.

Sec. 41. The counties of Otoe, Nemaha, Richardson, Pawnee, Johnson and Cass, shall, with the counties and territory west thereof, constitute the second judicial district.

Sec. 42. The counties of Washington, Burt, Dakota and counties and territory west and north thereof, except such as is included in the first, shall constitute the third judicial district.

It will be seen that there were three judicial districts in the state. Our supreme court consisted of three judges, and to each judge was given a judicial district. The regular sessions of the supreme court were fixed by the statute to be held annually at the seat of government of the territory on the second Tuesday of December and the second Tuesday of June, at which time it would seem that the three judges acting as the supreme court would review the work done as district court judges and pass on their decisions as a court of three, thus reviewing their work and making it final. This plan was followed till the adoption of the new constitution in 1875, and at the time of the formation of Clay county in 1871, the Hon. Daniel Gantt was the district judge for the first judicial district of which Clay county was a part.

The constitution of 1875 is of date, Lincoln, Nebraska, June 12th, 1875, and was adopted, as per provisions for submission at the general election held on the second Tuesday of October, A.D., 1875.

Under this constitution the judicial districts were changed, as was the form of courts, and the Hon. A. J. Weaver was elected as the first district judge, taking his place in January, 1876, and holding till January, 1833, thereby succeeding Judge Gantt.

Hon. Wm. H. Morris served from January, 1883, till January, 1892; Honorable Wm. G. Hastings from January, 1892, to January, 1900; Hon. G. W. Stubbs from January, 1900, to January, 1904; our townsman, Leslie G. Hurd, was elected and continuously served for three terms a period of twelve years, until in 1917, Hon. Ralph D. Brown of Crete succeeded Judge Hurd, who refused to stand for re-election. With a legislative change of Clay county to the Tenth district, Hon. H. S. Dungan of Hastings and W. C. Dorsey of Bloomington, became Clay county's judges. W. A. Dilworth of Holdrege succeeded Judge Dorsey in 1919, and L. H. Blackledge of Red Cloud succeeded Judge Dungan in 1921.

We will state in this connection that our former esteemed townsman, then a resident of Sutton, the late Dr. Marcus W. Wilcox, was Clay county's repre-

sentative at the constitutional convention, and was a man of great influence in that body, composed of exceptionally strong men of our state.

The Democrats and populists combined in the election of Judges Hastings and Stubbs, all others being of the Republican "faith."

Of the district and county attorneys, Clark, Spanogle and Corry, were elected by the same combination and Republican votes.

The tendency of the Democrats and Populists, to stay close to party lines in the casting of their vote, while that of the Republicans to vote for the nominee of these parties if friendly to them, has of late years made Republican success quite uncertain, and it has seemed hard to determine the relative strength of each party, which would be close were party lines closely drawn by the voter.

*Attorneys and Courts*—The Clay County Bar has from the organization of Clay county made a record for honesty and ability, equally good with the bar of any county in our state of corresponding numbers.

Few of the first attorneys were college men or graduates from a law school, but went from the farm and workshop to the office of some attorney, where they studied under their direction while they followed some work necessary to provide themselves and families with a living, doing much of their work by lamp, as their business prevented giving full time to their studies.

From this class, many of our best and most able attorneys have come, who have proven themselves worthy to stand by the side of any who have practiced in our courts, who were so fortunate as to receive their training in the college or law school.

At this time, R. G. Brown and E. P. Burnett, of Sutton, are the oldest attorneys in the county as to time of location, Mr. Brown having located at Sutton in 1871 and assisted in the organization of the county, and was the first attorney to locate in the county; Mr. Burnett at Harvard in 1872, coming here direct from the Ann Arbor law school, from which he had recently graduated, remaining here till he was elected county judge in the fall of 1873, which office he held twelve years, when the condition of his health caused him to decline another election. After his retirement, he removed from the county for some years, after which he returned to Sutton. Mr. Brown also removed from the county, residing at Beatrice and Denver, after which he also returned to Sutton.

Judge Leslie G. Hurd, of our District Court, was admitted to practice in 1877, having located on a preemption near Harvard early in 1872, and since his admission has been in continuous practice at Harvard till his election as judge.

The writer of this article came to Harvard in June, 1872, read law under Judge Burnett and the late Judge Hays, was admitted to practice at the May term of District Court for the year 1877-78, and has continued in the practice of law at Harvard since.

We think it safe to say, that as to years of continuous residence and practice, Judge Hurd and the writer are the oldest attorneys in the county. Judge Hurd was a student in the study of law under the late James Laird, one of the first attorneys to locate in Adams county, and who died while a member of Congress.

Both Judge Hays and Mr. Laird were able attorneys and gave most kindly assistance to many a young attorney just starting in the practice of law.

The justice courts of our county have usually, from the first organization of the county, been presided over by men worthy of their duty. We are not sure as to the oldest continuous justice, but are inclined to give the place to Justice A. M. Lathrop of Inland, who we think has been a justice most of the time since each township was given a justice. We wish Mr. Lathrop would tell us in his Inland Letter to the Courier.

Ezra Brown of Harvard has served at various times, an aggregate of some twenty-five or more years. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Clay County Bar, and has been police judge of Harvard for many years.

At the conclusion of Mr. Barbour's research as set forth in the foregoing narrative, Mr. Barbour diverted to include a short narrative by another early settler of Clay county, and then concluded his own series with a valuable line of statistical data. It was a very fortunate thing for the cause of preservation of Clay county's early history that Mr. Barbour performed this task some three or four years before his death.

"In 1871 the Sioux Indians raided that section, burning all the property they could find, and being halted only after their chief had been killed. This occurred in a gallant defense of a ranch house by four men and three women who were attacked by several hundred Indians."

"On this raid, the Sioux nearly depopulated the settlement along the Little Blue, driving practically everybody out, killing a number of settlers and stage drivers and persons driving their wagon trains."

"The pony express ran through this section, and for years the riders had to go at full speed, as every time they went from post to post they were chased by the Sioux. After the Indians had gone, some of the settlers came back, and thereafter they increased so rapidly that the reds never tried to repeat their raids on a scale of past years."

The writer of this article has heard James Bainter and others living in Clay county at the time of this raid tell of their part taken in defense of their property and homes against the Indians in this raid, and we think the raid above referred to as having taken place in 1871, was in 1869 or perhaps 1870, which we understand to have been the last Indian raid made in Clay county. We may be in error, but it is our understanding that it was generally understood to have been Mr. Bainter whose steady aim brought down the Sioux chief above mentioned, and caused his red warriors to desist from further carnage and leave the field.

Mr. Bainter has removed from the county to some of the western states having lived near Spring Rancho till some five years or so ago, but there are still, in the county, those who were either here at the time or came soon after, who are well conversant with the incidents above mentioned.

John W. Latham, well known to many people in Harvard as a heavy property owner here some years ago, was a partner with Mr. Watson in the overland freight business about the time to which these incidents refer.

Associated with these incidents and parties we will connect the first mortgage given on real estate shown by the mortgage record of Clay county, as having been given by James Bainter to Diantha Latham, on one-hundred sixty acres

of land in part of section eight, Spring Ranche precinct, in the sum of eight hundred ten dollars, of date December 9th, 1871.

This mortgagee was the wife of the above mentioned John W. Latham. This land was, we think, the homestead of Mr. Bainter on which he resided at the time of these raids.

Having mentioned the first real estate mortgage, we will give the record information of first deed and other first things to take place, in the long list of their nature and kind that will not stop while the wheels of business turn.

The first guaranteed deed to be recorded was from Luther French to Robert G. Brown, on lot 19 in block 19 of Sutton, five dollars having been named as the consideration. This deed is of date October 28th, 1871, is acknowledged before F. M. Brown. The second warranty deed was by M. French to Arthur Burlingame, for lot 17 in block 17, Sutton, with fifteen dollars consideration, while there were six other deeds given by Mr. French to various persons for lots in Sutton of about the same date, October 28, 1871, making the first eight deeds to go on record.

The second real estate mortgage, was given on Sutton property to Mr. French, from whom it had evidently been bought, the consideration named being \$2,000, but date of mortgage not given, though it was evidently about the same time.

The first term of district court to convene was that of May 16th, 1873, and adjourned to May 23rd, with Daniel Gantt, judge, A. J. Weaver, district attorney, F. M. Brown, clerk, and F. Kearney, sheriff.

Case No. 1 was Peek and Meston vs. Cheeney and Farmer, to foreclose mechanic lien on property in Harvard, No. 2, was a mortgage foreclosure, and default taken.

The first criminal case was at this term and is known as State of Nebraska vs. Lorenzo Snow, for assault and battery, in which defendant was convicted before a jury and sentenced to pay a fine of ten dollars and costs.

The trial jury at this term of court to be drawn were: F. M. Davis, B. F. Hockett, A. M. Lathrop, Ales Meston, George Page, M. J. Hull, John F. Sawtell, Ezra Brown, R. L. Garr, A. B. Smith, T. R. Elder, E. E. Lake, David Northrop, Daniel Lenfest, J. W. Ramsey, S. C. Sloat, J. H. Manchester, Mr. Ally, Albert Hardy, W. Cummings, Chas. A. Buch, Frank Paschall, and two others not reporting. We do not know just which ones of these tried the first case but it was twelve of the above named.

There was also a grand jury at this term, being the first to be drawn for the county. The names of those drawn were: Daniel Cronin, W. F. Guthrie, Wm. Todd, George F. Warren, C. M. Turner, R. W. Brown, Richard Bayley, Leroy S. Winters, Louis N. Bryant, J. Rowley, F. Northrup, Joel Longsareth and T. Weed. Three not reporting, R. S. Volliett, Geo. W. Bemis and I. N. Clark, were chosen talesmen to take their places. T. Weed was foreman. We are not advised as to the work done by this jury but think there were some indictments found, one being as we recall, against Smith for the shooting of Conent over claim and land trouble, who was afterwards acquitted.

The first attorney to be admitted to practice in the county was at this term and was Wm. H. Mitchell, the committee on examination being H. Hayes. James M. McFall was also admitted on certificate without examination.



The first civil action in the county court was James Schomerhorn vs. D. P. Jones, on account, for the putting down of a well. Trial had at court of November 6th, 1871, who found for plaintiff in the sum of \$33.20 and costs of \$4.00. R. G. Brown was attorney for plaintiff.

The probate department of this court shows the first estate to be probated was that of Judthen Loomis, who left a will, and came before Judge Maltby, December 11, 1872. The second probate case came before Judge Burnett, December 1, 1873, nearly one year later and was that of William A. Trobaugh estate. It may be noted that the County Judge's office was not a very paying office then.

The first guardian to be appointed by this court was Mary Kennedy, as guardian for Carolina Bush.

I question if a more intelligent and worthy grand and trial jury was ever drawn in this county, than composed these two juries, the first to be drawn as herein given for the county.

#### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

In the State Senate, Clay County has been represented: 1877, W. C. Walton, Sutton; 1879, D. A. Seoville, Aurora; 1881, J. B. Dinsmore, Sutton, who served as president pro tempore of that body; 1883 and 1885 by Ezra Brown, Harvard; 1887, R. G. Brown, Sutton; 1889, L. G. Hurd, Harvard; and in 1891 again by a Hamilton County man, Valentine Horn of Phillips; 1893 by L. L. Johnson of Clay County; and in 1895 by E. E. Mighell of Hamilton County; in 1897 by Smith T. Caldwell of Edgar; and in 1899 by F. M. Howard of Aurora; 1901 by Henry Reuting of Saronville, when the county moved from its pairing with Hamilton to association with Adams; and in 1903 by J. C. Hedge of Hastings; 1905 and 1907 by Charles H. Epperson of Fairfield; 1909 and 1911 by George W. Tibbetts of Hastings, now Supreme Court Commissioner; and in 1913 and 1915 by Will Brookley of Edgar; and in 1919 by Walter E. Hager; and 1921 by Fred Johnson of Hastings.

In the lower house of representatives, Clay County has been represented 1877, by L. T. Caldwell, Edgar; 1879, H. A. Draper, Edgar; 1881, J. H. Case, Fairfield; 1883 by Ezra E. Howard of Edgar and D. M. Nettleton of Spring Ranche, and they both served again in 1885; 1887 by W. M. Newton of Harvard, and W. S. Randall of Fairfield; 1889 by C. W. Bortis of Glenville and S. W. Christy of Edgar; 1891 by S. M. Elder of Clay Center, who served as speaker of the House and Logan McReynolds of Fairfield; 1893 again by S. M. Elder with E. A. McVey of Sutton; 1895, E. E. Hairgrove of Sutton and Wm. Ashby of Fairfield; 1897, by B. W. Campbell of Clay Center and R. W. Hill of Edgar; 1899, by M. Broderick of Fairfield and F. A. Thompson of Clay Center and in 1901 by Chas. H. Beall of Fairfield and M. Broderick again; 1903, by P. A. Caldwell of Edgar and John R. Musiek, Edgar, and in this and next session George C. Fishback of Harvard also served; 1905, Wm. Ashby again served with P. A. Caldwell of Edgar. In 1907, A. J. Jenison of Harvard and D. M. Nettleton of Spring Ranche, who served as speaker of this, almost the most famous, session of the Nebraska Legislature. In 1909, the last session in which two served from the county, J. E. Broderick of Fairfield and D. M. Nettleton

of Spring Ranche. Since then, in 1911, John M. Jones of Clay Center; 1913, H. C. Palmer of Clay Center; 1915, Guy H. Matteson of Sutton; 1917, H. A. Swanson of Clay Center and 1919, Dr. A. J. Jenison of Harvard and in 1921, Charles H. Epperson of Fairfield.

## CHAPTER III

### EARLY DAYS IN CLAY COUNTY

FAMILY HISTORY AND REMINISCENCES, BY F. M. BROWN, SUTTON—EARLY DAYS IN CLAY COUNTY, BY DISTRICT JUDGE W. A. DILWORTH.

#### EARLY CLAY COUNTY

BY F. M. BROWN, SUTTON

During the years 1916 and 1917, F. M. Brown, Editor of the Sutton Register published a series of 40 short articles, giving a very complete history of his family. Except for the very first, opening statement, the first half of this exceptionally comprehensive discourse does not apply to Nebraska, or to Clay County, but that portion which describes events and people after his arrival in Nebraska, serves to give still another angle to many of the notable events of the early years of the County's existence, so is fortunately appropriate for this narrative.

Everybody is more or less interested in the life and history of their ancestors however commonplace it may be. As I am the oldest member of the Brown family now living I am probably better able to write the family history than any one else. I believe it is a duty that I owe to my family to do this now as far as I am able, for at my death much of the early family history would be lost unless written and put in shape to be preserved for benefit of future generations, and the best way to do this is to put the history into print. There is nothing tragic in the story and it may not be of general interest; that matters not; our object is to preserve our family record and some of the trials and incidents of pioneer life for the benefit of my family and future generations. The first installment of the story will appear in the next issue of the Register and will be continued in small installments until completed.

F. M. BROWN.

Last week I announced my intention of writing a brief history of the Brown family as far as I am able, for the benefit of the present and future generations because I believe it is a duty I owe to them.

Commencing the story with my grandfather, William Brown. Beyond that I cannot go, except to say that his ancestors came from Scotland and settled in Virginia, where William Brown was born in 1776, and therefore too young to take any interest in the Revolutionary war. Twenty-one years later he married Betsey Robison, a native of Virginia. They settled on a farm in Sandy river valley, where they raised a family of three stalwart sons and three daughters. Robert G. was the first son, Samuel R. the second, William R. the third. The daughters were Elizabeth, Nancy, and Rebecca; all grew

up to manhood and womanhood on the farm. In those days the people depended very largely upon their own resources for the necessaries and comforts of life. There were no railroads, no telegraph lines and comparatively few manufactories outside of New England. Most of the people of Virginia produced their own cotton, wool, flax, hemp, and tanned their own leather, raised their own wheat, corn and tobacco and made their own whiskey. The young men learned trades, and the girls were taught to do house work, card, spin, weave, dye, cut and make dresses and men's tailoring.

In addition to farming, Grandfather was a blacksmith. His son Robert was a miller, Samuel a carpenter and William a plasterer and bricklayer. Elizabeth and Nancy were experts in weaving cotton, wool, flax and hemp, producing beautiful patterns of table linens and bed spreads, some of which have been preserved and are exhibited as specimens of their handicraft. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married a young Virginia cooper named Hugh L. Forbes. Grandfather was opposed to the institution of slavery, and when his family grew up he decided to move to Illinois, which was rapidly filling up with people from the older states east. He sold his farm, implements and live stock, except a big wagon and four-horse team, and a saddle horse for each member of the family, including Elizabeth and her husband, Forbes, preparatory for the long journey west.

One afternoon late in August brother Charley and I got permission to go fishing in the creek about a mile from our house. On the way down we passed a corn field on the bottom. We heard a noise in the corn and sent our dog in to find the cause. The dog scared up a bunch of hogs in the corn. We returned to the house and told father about the hogs in the corn. He said there were some wild hogs in the timber and brush along the creek, that had had come from the west for water, which was scarce in the hills on account of dry weather. He took his gun and mounted a horse and told us he was going down to the cornfield to look after the hogs. In a short time we heard shots in the field and knew he had found the game and that every shot meant a dead hog. In about three hours he returned and put the horse in the barn. He told mother that the hogs had done considerable damage in the field, but at least twelve of them would eat no more. The next morning father and we boys went and found the hole under the fence where the hogs got in, and fixed it, and there was no further trouble from the hogs.

When the Mexican war came on and the president called for volunteers we had a young man working on the farm named Alfred Lathrop. He said he would go if father would let him off. After telling Alfred of the hardships and dangers he would likely meet in Mexico, father agreed to let him off. Alfred enlisted in a company being organized in Marshall by Colonel Archer, went to Mexico and served through the war and came home all right.

Mother and uncle Joe decided that aunt Martha should have a better education than she was able to obtain at home. They sent her to St. Mary's Academy, where she remained two years. After leaving St. Mary she taught school two years in Indiana, where she married Noel B. DevoI, and afterwards located in Marshall, Illinois.

In 1849 there was considerable excitement over the discovery of gold in California and many young men were going across the continent to seek their

fortunes on the Pacific coast. Uncle Joe got the gold fever and organized a party of ten young men of that neighborhood to go overland to California. After several months we heard from him at San Francisco. The party located in what is now called Mariposa county and began work in placer mining and were very successful. After nine years he returned by water by the way of New York, and located in business in Terre Haute. After father had lived and done well on the Shaw farm about six years, he bought a farm called the Rogers place, two miles west, containing 160 acres, from Artemus Lathrop. I do not remember the purchase price, but I do remember that Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop with a Justice of Peace came to our house to execute the deed which had been prepared by an attorney at the county seat. Before Mrs. Lathrop would sign the deed she demanded the price of a new dress to bind the bargain. That was the usual custom in the country. Father handed her five new silver dollars to buy the dress. After the deed had been signed and acknowledged, father went out and brought in a sack and emptied the contents on the table, every dollar in gold and silver. After Mr. Lathrop had counted the coin he returned it to the sack, put it in his wagon and went home; as there were no banks, people kept their money at home; there was no currency outside the cities. The Rodgers place was poorly improved, there being only about thirty acres under cultivation, an old double log cabin and an old stable. The rest of the land was heavy timber, and a small bearing orchard. Father decided to move onto the place that fall, made a sale and sold most of his stock, reserving a team of horses, a yoke of big oxen, three cows, about twenty-five sheep and a few hogs. After we got moved, father who was a carpenter, began to get lumber and material on the ground for a new two-story house, and by spring had it ready for the plasterer. Uncle William Brown, who was a plasterer and brick layer, came and did the work in good shape. Sister Martha was born in the old log cabin.

The year 1858 was uneventful in our family. We did not have land enough to keep us all employed at home, some of the boys had to go out to work by the month. I worked for a farmer in McLean county three months at \$7 per month and earned it. The contest of Lincoln and Douglas for United States senator created great public interest and political excitement all over the state. Political rallies were frequent and largely attended, especially at the places where Lincoln and Douglas met in joint discussion; people drove 30 and 40 miles to these meetings. I was not old enough to vote, but I gave what little support I had to Mr. Lincoln.

Slavery in the territories was the issue in the campaign. Lincoln was defeated, but his defeat for senator gave him the republican nomination for president in 1860. Senator Douglas was the candidate of the northern wing of the democratic party. The campaign that followed was the most exciting I have ever seen; uniformed marching clubs were organized by both parties. I belonged to a republican club called the "Wideawakes." Our uniform consisted of a black oil cloth cap and cape, which were pretty warm when marching in the sun on hot days; we also carried a torch when marching at night. Lincoln was elected, and the southern states fearing that the institution of slavery was in danger threatened the dissolution of the Union, and began organizing armed forces—the peace and safety of the nation was in danger. Mr.

Lincoln did everything in his power to allay the excitement and fears of the south, but with little success. When the time came for Mr. Lincoln to go to Washington and assume the duties of president, grave fears were entertained for his safety and he was conducted secretly through Baltimore at night and reached Washington in safety and on the 4th of March, 1861, took the oath of president of the United States and entered the White House. His address was pacific, assuring the south that he had no intention of interfering with slavery in the states, but it failed to satisfy the south which had decided to dissolve the Union. State after state passed ordinances of secession and finally Fort Sumpter was fired upon. President Lincoln called for volunteers to defend the national capitol and defend the Union. The loyal people of the north were aroused and rallied to the support of the president. I was working for a neighbor at \$12 a month. When I saw the president's call for volunteers I made up my mind to go. I said to Mr. Rood, "If you will let me off, I will enlist in the army." He said, "You are right, I will let you off and as soon as I can arrange my affairs I will go too." (Which he did and died in the service.)

I went to town that night and found Captain Wood who was organizing a company for the 14th Indiana at Terre Haute. He said he would be pleased to enroll me in his company, and I told him I would go home and get some clothes and come back in the morning. When I told mother I was going to the war her eyes filled with tears, but she did not try to prevent me from going, she tied up some clothing and other little things and put them in an old carpetbag. I kissed mother and all the children good-bye and was off for the war.

Uncle Joe left considerable property at his death, but unfortunately his brother John, who should have been administrator to the estate, had no business ability or energy, and refused to have anything whatever to do with settling the estate except to appear in the probate court in Vigo county, Indiana, and sign a petition requesting that John Kester, Uncle Joe's partner in business, be appointed as administrator of the estate. This meant that the heirs would never get a dollar from the estate.

Cheat Mountain pass was a very disagreeable, unhealthy camp; cold rains and snows were frequent and many of the men and horses were sick and disabled. In the latter part of August we got orders to move down to the valley twenty miles below, and it was a welcome change for man and beast. The forts we had been working on for weeks to guard the pass were abandoned as worthless, as most works of that kind are now considered. It was while here I received my first information of the enlistment of my brothers Charles and John in Company F., 30th Illinois. Their regiment went to Kentucky and Tennessee, and from there to Atlanta.

Our regiment received its first pay while in the Tygart valley. We were paid in gold certificates at \$11.00 per month, the only gold we ever received during the war, but I want to say here now and forever that I have no fault to find with Uncle Sam during my active service or subsequent treatment. From the valley we moved over to Romney, where we were quartered in the county court house. Hundreds of thousands of public documents were destroyed and the furniture used for fuel during the winter. Romney was a

beautiful place, but the people paid a terrible price for their support of the southern confederacy.

In the last chapter of the family history, I was with my regiment in Romney, Va., where we spent the greater portion of the late fall of 1861. About the middle of December we were ordered from Romney into Maryland to guard the B. & O. railroad, one of the main lines of communication between the Ohio river and Washington. Following the road east we reached Harper's Ferry, Va., one of the historic places of the Civil war as well as for its geographical surroundings. It is here that the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers break through the Blue Ridge, and the Potomac rapids are located. The Shenandoah river following north joins the Potomac west of the Blue Ridge. The mountains on each side rise abruptly about 600 feet and are called heights. That on the south of Virginia side is called Louden heights, and that on the north or Maryland side is called Maryland heights. There is another lower range lying west of the Shenandoah and south of the Potomac rivers called Bolivar heights rising to the south and west. It is along the west bank of the Shenandoah and south bank of the Potomac rivers that the village of Harper's Ferry is located, there being only one street which follows the river fronts and the natural lay of the land. The houses are all located on one side of the street, no attention being paid to grade or regularity of fronts or walks. At that time there were no walks except the ground. It was a hard looking old place, and how the people lived was a mystery, but the soil is productive and all kinds of crops do well, especially wild grapes and paw paws, the finest I ever tasted. It was here that John Brown and his followers began the war to free the slaves. At that time there was a governmental arsenal located there. After helping himself to what arms and ammunition he wanted, Brown destroyed the arsenal by burning it with its contents. When we visited this place we found thousands of muskets stacked up and the wood work burned off. It was here that Brown and his followers were arrested and afterwards convicted of treason and hung at Charlestown. When I passed through the historic old town three years ago I noticed a fine monument arch to John Brown, occupying the ground on which stood the arsenal destroyed over fifty years before. Harper's Ferry changed hands several times during the Civil war. Here General Miles surrendered twelve thousand federal troops to the confederates previous to the battle of Antietam, Maryland, and Miles subsequently lost his life. After the defeat of Lee at Antietam, and his retreat into Virginia, our regiment again occupied Bolivar heights for several days and Governor Oliver P. Morton came out from Washington to visit and inspect the regiment and made a speech. There was one of the grandest men the world ever produced. Soon after this McClellan followed Lee into Virginia. It is not my intention to write a history of the Civil war or record of my connection with it, but now more than half a century later I am proud to say that I was never absent a day from my regiment from the time we were mustered into service at Terre Haute in 1861 until we were mustered out at Indianapolis in 1864. My military record is identified with that of my regiment, known in history, as one of the fighting regiments of the Union army during the Civil war.

While teaching in Livingston I boarded with Dr. Patton, who married my cousin, Mary A. Hanks, the youngest daughter of Elza and Nancy Hanks. Dr. and Mrs. Patton had two small boys who attended school. During the next summer I built a house for mother in Marshall. The Vandalia railroad from St. Louis to Terre Haute was in course of construction, and I worked with a bridge gang until fall. Brother Robert read law in the office of John Schofield and J. W. Wilkin, both of whom subsequently died while on the supreme bench of Illinois. That winter I taught school at West Union, twenty miles south of Marshall, and taught at the same place the next winter. In the spring of 1868 brothers George and John drove a team of mules to a wagon from Marshall to Denver and Central City, Colorado, passing through Nebraska City, Lincoln, and Fort Kearney. They were engaged in mining while out there. My youngest brother, Joseph L., died October 10, 1868, aged 18 years, 10 months and 4 days. He was buried at Livingston. In 1869 John returned and located at Casey, Ill., in the practice of medicine. George returned in the winter of 1870. In the spring of 1871 we sold the farm, and George and I decided to come to Nebraska. At that time railroad transportation and connections were poor. We left Marshall in the morning, reached East St. Louis in the afternoon, crossed on a ferry to St. Louis; after waiting there several hours we got out on the Northern Missouri and reached Moberly next morning where we changed cars for Ottumwa, where we changed to the B. & M. and finally reached Pacific Junction, where we changed to a stub train that carried us down to the river where we found a ferry boat that took us across to Platts-mouth; there we got a train for Lincoln where we arrived in the evening of April 1, 1871, after being on the road three days and nights. We stopped at the Clifton hotel, which stood on the ground now occupied by the Lindell hotel. Here we met the girl who afterwards married John T. Mollneaux of Sutton; she was waiting on table in the Clifton.

The weather was fine, wild plum trees in bloom and wheat was beginning to look green, and everything looked encouraging, but on the 3rd of April we had a blizzard; it was cold with snow and a fierce wind from the north piled up the snow in drifts and the railroad was blocked. It was a new experience for George and I, we did not like it, we talked the matter over with others who told us that such were unusual. I told George that once would do me, that I had seen enough, that we better go east as soon as the railroad was open. George was not so easily discouraged. He said to wait and see how it comes out. The next day the storm was over, the sun came out bright and warm and the snow melted rapidly and things looked more encouraging, and we decided to look over the country. At that time Lincoln was little more than a village, the old capitol building stood out on the prairie by itself, not another house near except the old Tichemor hotel west of the capitol. It seemed like nearly everybody was in the real estate business and had lots to sell; business lots on O street were offered at from \$600 to \$1,000, and they were a good investment at the price, but we were not looking for lots, but government land, and there was where we made a mistake; those who invested in city property made good.

What we could learn the Blue Valley west of Lincoln was a fine section of the state, and we wanted to see it before proceeding further. After look-



ing around we found a man who had a good team and spring wagon, and we hired him to take us out into Seward county to look over the country, agreeing to pay him \$3 a day and expenses while in our employ. The next day we drove out to Milford and up the west side of the Blue to Seward; we saw much fine land, but every odd numbered section belonged to the B. & M. railroad, for which they asked from \$4 to \$6 an acre and well worth the money. We stayed all night at Seward, stopping at the Clough House, run by Warren Clough, who was afterwards convicted and sent to the Nebraska penitentiary for life for the murder of his brother in the hotel. We found that the public land in Seward county had generally been settled or filed upon. So we decided to return to Lincoln and procure plats of portions of Fillmore, Hamilton and Clay counties and see how they looked, before going further. When we went to the land office the next morning we found a crowd of land seekers from all parts of the country. We fell in with Robert L. Garr and son Thomas, of Indiana, and George Smith, of Iowa, who had teams and were going out to Clay county to look for homesteads, and we made arrangements to go along with them, to travel and camp together until we returned to Lincoln, and to start the next morning or as soon as we could get ready. The first thing to do was to procure provisions and feed for about ten days, which we left to Smith and Garrs. As a preparedness against hostile Indians George bought a second-hand double barrel muzzle loading shotgun and a supply of ammunition, also an assortment of fish hooks and lines for use in case we found water and fish. The next morning found us all ready to start on our exploring expedition to Clay county. The procession headed for Milford and stopped there for dinner. Here we saw our first buffalo, but he was tame and running with other cattle, so we let him go. We followed up the West Blue and camped for the night on the river near Beaver Crossing. Here we saw our first beaver dam on the Blue. George said he believed there was fish in that water; he got out his hooks and lines and with a spade which the Garrs had brought along to examine soil, he soon found plenty of fish worms in the rich black soil. He put a worm on the hook and threw it into the water and pulled out a cat fish over a foot long, and in a short time he had landed about a dozen more of the same kind. Tom Garr was something of a cook, and while Mr. and Mrs. Smith hunted up wood and made a fire, Tom, George and I had dressed a dozen fine fish ready for the skillet. We had plenty of lard and butter and Tom did the cooking in fine shape and all pronounced it the best fish ever, and decided to have fish for breakfast, and had it not been so warm we probably would have fish for dinner; as plover was plenty we bagged enough toothsome birds for our lunch. Following up the Blue we reached the David Henderson ranch in York county in the afternoon. Here we saw our first antelope; a herd of about fifteen came down the valley, and when they saw us turned south into the hills. Robert Henderson said antelope were plenty, but very wild. From the Henderson place we followed the river up to the James Waddell ranch in Hamilton county about seven miles north of Sutton, where we camped for the night. The Waddells were Scotch people, very cordial and ready to give information and assistance to prospective settlers. They informed us that while the government land along the Blue valley was generally taken, that there was plenty of good land subject

to entry on the high land north or south of the river. We decided to look at Clay county the next day.

During the evening we were camped on the Blue near Waddells. A young man named Ab Wragar visited us. He said there was plenty of good vacant land in Clay county between the Blue and School creek, that he had a homestead in Clay on Section 10-8-5 and that the rest of the section was vacant. He agreed to accompany us as guide the next day. Next morning we were up early, Wragar on hand ready to go with us. We drove south to the county line and visited John Kennedy, who lived in a dugout on the northeast quarter section 28-5, the rest of the section being vacant and good land. Mr. Garr and son Tom were pleased with this section. Next we visited Wragar's homestead and sod house on N. one-half N. E. one-quarter 10-8-5. The rest of this section was vacant and good land. We drove south to School Creek and visited A. A. Corey and A. K. Marsh on their homesteads on the creek, and also called on Luther French, who lived in a dugout on the south bank of the creek on an 80-acre farm, on which the original town of Sutton was afterward located. The B. & M. railroad had two surveys through this part of Clay county, one on which the road was subsequently built, and one about three miles north, crossing section 15-8-5. After looking around all day we returned to the Blue to camp well pleased with Clay county. George and I decided to locate on section 10-8-5; the Garrs chose section 2-8-5, and Smith northwest of section 14-8-5, all close together. We had also taken the precaution of making second and third choices of locations. The next thing to do was to return to Lincoln, make our filings at the government land office and prepare to settle on our claims as soon as possible. The next day we drove down to Beaver Crossing, where we camped and had a catfish for dinner. We reached Lincoln next day too late to do any business at the land office, which closed at 4 o'clock. We were on hand the next morning when the land office opened at 8 o'clock and made our filings, all on our first choice locations. Mr. Smith and the Garrs having teams, had only to procure what they would need most on their homesteads, and were able to haul such as provisions, feed, stoves, plows, lumber, tools, etc., and return to their land for further operations. George and I having no teams, and good horses being scarce and high in Lincoln, we decided that I should return to Illinois and buy teams and wagons, harness and such other things as we might need on our homesteads, and return as soon as possible, while George would return with the Garrs, get some breaking done on our claims and plant corn and potatoes and build some kind of a place for us to live in during the summer. I left Lincoln the next morning for Marshall, Ill., got to Monmouth, Ill., in the evening, stayed there all night, got out the next morning, reached St. Louis that evening, stayed there all night and reached home the next evening after being two nights and three days on the way. Train service and connections were miserable in the west at that time. I found mother and the family well and surprised to see me back. I at once began to look around for teams to buy, and purchased a fine team of four-year-old horses for \$250. I went to Paris with this team, bought a new set of harness and a new wagon, and the first time I hitched them up they ran away, turned the wagon over, threw me

out and dislocated my shoulder; brother Bob took care of the team for me while I was laid up.

That runaway was a serious accident, as it crippled me for life in my shoulder and left knee. Brother Bob decided to accompany me back to Nebraska, and as soon as I was able to hobble around we began to get ready for the trip. I broke the runaway team and bought a pair of heavy mules, and such other things as we would need on the road and after we reached Nebraska, I loaded up the covered wagon with a toolehest, messchest, trunk, bedding, clothing, provisions and feed for the teams, put the mules on the wagon and tied the horses behind, and we were ready to start, bidding mother and the girls good-bye, and then we were off for Nebraska. We reached Casey at noon and took dinner with brother John at the hotel. After visiting with John a couple of hours we bid him good-bye and proceeded on our way. That was the last time we ever saw John.

Along about sundown we found a good place to camp on a creek in the woods. By the time we had taken care of our teams, made coffee, ate supper and done the dishes it was dark and time to retire; we spread our bed on the ground and turned in, but the whippoorwills were having a concert that night, and their music disturbed our rest in the early part of the night. But we were up at daylight next morning, fed our horses, got breakfast, put things in the wagon, hooked up and pulled out again. The Ambraw river bottoms, which were almost impassable on account of recent overflow, presented a problem, but we had good teams and light loads and pulled through all right. The roads were pretty good now until we reached the Mississippi bottom east of St. Louis, where for several miles the road was terrible, the main streets of East St. Louis being hub-deep with soft, slushy mud as black as coal could make them. We crossed the river on a ferry boat to St. Louis. To save time and reach Nebraska as soon as possible, we decided to ship our outfit to Nebraska City on a boat. Looking along the levee we found a Missouri river boat loading for Omaha. The captain said he would carry us to Nebraska City for \$55, which we paid and put the teams on board. The captain said he would pull out next day and that we would be in Nebraska City in eight days, that is, the boat was able to make 100 miles a day. We laid in provisions and feed accordingly—1,000 pounds of hay and twenty bushels of corn and oats and provisions for ourselves. We soon found out we could place no reliance on the captain's word. After we had been on the boat three days, and the boat was loaded down, a barge loaded with dressed pine lumber from Chicago, came alongside and tied up to our boat and about thirty niggers commenced to transfer 150,000 feet of lumber to our boat, which filled every foot of space between decks from the boilers back to the wheelhouse. The niggers stole every bit of food we had provided for the occasion; they also cut the new leather halter straps off our horses to make belts for their worthless bodies. When there was no more room for a pound of freight, the boat pulled out for Omaha. Instead of taking any more chances of having our provisions stolen, we arranged to take our meals up in the cabin at fifty cents each. The boat stopped at every wood yard for fuel and at every town to put off freight. It put off fifty hogsheads of sugar at Kansas City and 800 kegs of nails at St. Joseph. The boat was stuck on sand bars about half the time, but we finally

reached Nebraska at Rulo, where the lumber was taken off, which lightened the boat considerably, and it was able to make better time. The next stop was Nebraska City, which we reached after being on the boat twenty-one days, mighty glad to get off. Our horses and mules were in bad shape, as they had not laid down while on the boat, because they were located back of the wheel which threw water under them. As soon as the horses and mules were on the ground, they dropped down to roll in the dirt, and seemed glad to get off the boat, where they had been on short feed for three days. After we had procured some grain and provisions we drove out and camped near the Morton place and picketed our horses on the prairie and picked wild strawberries for supper.

We liked Arbor Lodge very much, but it was not for sale. A night's rest on the grass helped our horses and mules wonderfully, the swelling in their legs being greatly reduced. We decided to proceed toward Lincoln. After breakfast we hitched up and drove slowly until noon, when we stopped for rest and refreshment. At one o'clock we hitched up and were on the road again, and at six o'clock we were twenty-five miles west of Nebraska City and thirty miles from Lincoln. We camped for the night on the bank of a small creek, where we found good grass for our teams and fuel to make a fire to cook our supper and breakfast. We got an early start next morning and made good time, about eighteen miles by noon, when we halted for rest and dinner. We reached East Lincoln about sunset and camped on the creek for the night. The next morning we drove into town and put our teams in a barn while we did some trading. We had prepared a list of things needed on the homestead, such as a breaking plow, cook stove and utensils, water barrel, tub and washboard, soap, ammunition for muzzle-loading gun, lumber for a small table and some nails, flour, provisions and feed. When we got all this stuff on the wagon, we had a full load and were ready to pull out for Clay county. We drove out on the Milford road about six miles and camped for the night. The next night we camped on the Blue west of Beaver Crossing, and the next evening we arrived at the R. L. Garr homestead on the north-west quarter section of 2-8-5, School Creek township, where we found brother George and the Garr family, including Mr. and Mrs. Garr, two sons and six daughters, three of them young ladies, who gave us a cordial greeting and invitation to supper. It looked encouraging. We accepted the invitation as it was getting late, and also decided to stay over night and go to the Brown's ranch two miles south next morning. While we were at breakfast someone noticed a mother elk with a young one by her side going west slowly. Some of the boys suggested to Ben Garr that he might catch the little elk. Ben struck out on foot after the elk, but was unable to overtake it. The mother elk ran off and left the little one; seeing there was a possibility of getting the young elk, I mounted a horse and went after it, soon running it down. When the little thing could go no further, he screamed for help and dived into a bunch of tall grass and laid there until Ben came up and captured him and carried him to the house. The Garrs had two fresh cows, and the young elk soon learned to drink milk and thrived until it was a big elk with horns and a little dangerous to have the place. They sold him to Simon Kelly of Lin-

coln for fifty dollars. Kelley had a match for him and broke them to harness to drive on a buggy.

George, Bob and I took dinner on my homestead on the 2nd day of June. During my absence George had hired Bob Waddell to break ten acres for thirty dollars, which he put in corn, which now was up and growing nicely; he had also planted some potatoes, had built a shed by digging into the hill-side about sixteen feet square, putting up six forks and ridge poles on which were placed pole rafters, brush and hay for the roof, and under this shed we lived until we got our dugout ready to move into. The water question was one that troubled us a good deal, as we had to go to the Blue for every drop we used, and our horses and mules drank therefrom until we could get a well dug. Mr. Garr and family were in the same fix for water, except that they had only two miles to go while we had four to go with only one barrel and a tub to hold water. Mr. Garr had been trying for six weeks to find somebody to dig him a well, but had failed. But we must have water or quit business; we decided that Mr. Garr should take his team, go to Lincoln and buy a well auger and bring it back with him. Our daily program was to keep the mule team breaking sod, one of us to take a plow lay to Charley White's blacksmith shop on the Blue, four miles east. In order to reach the shop early, get the lay sharpened and get back before noon it was necessary to start at four o'clock on foot, as the horses were needed for other purposes. After dinner George and I worked on the sod house until four o'clock, when we drove to the Blue river for water and fuel. This with the cooking and washing kept us busy.

After Mr. Garr had been gone about a week he returned from Lincoln with a well-boring outfit and tubing for a 100-foot well. He and his boys began work on his well the next day, and as soon as his well was completed, we were to have the rigging. It was necessary to make a trip to Lincoln for tubing for the well, sash and lumber for our dugout and furniture, and provisions. When we got back from Lincoln Mr. Garr had his well completed and plenty of good water. We got the well-boring outfit home and went to work as soon as possible, and in about a week we had our well down eighty-five feet and with plenty of good water and a great improvement on hauling from the river. We soon got our dugout completed and moved into it and were more comfortably fixed. On our last trip to Lincoln we brought a dozen hens and some eggs; it was impossible to get eggs at home. We bought butter from Mrs. John Kennedy who owned two cows, and she gave us sour milk, which we used in making cakes and dutch cheese.

We kept the breaking plow going until the ground was dry and hard, and when we stopped we had ninety acres broke. There was a celebration July 4th in Wescott's grove on the Blue. George, Bob and I went and took the Garr girls. There was a good crowd and all enjoyed the picnic dinner. They had martial music, singing, speaking and dancing. Refreshment stands sold liquor, but I saw no one intoxicated.

We raised no garden, except potatoes, which were fine. We bought a dozen young chickens from Mrs. Hunter, but they proved to be all roosters, so we killed them and ate them all but one which we kept to crow, as it gave the place a homelike appearance. We needed a good milk cow and decided

to buy one at the first opportunity. We heard that Uncle Johnny Brown on the Blue had a fresh cow for sale, and I went to see her. She was a very large, fine cow, and I bought her for fifty dollars and led her home. She gave a lot of milk, but we were poorly fixed for handling milk in warm weather. But we had plenty of fresh milk and made what butter and dutch cheese we could use, which was a great help to us when meat was scarce and hard to get.

The B. & M. railroad was being constructed west of Crete, the grading was being done on the line on which Sutton was subsequently located. The people in this vicinity expected that a station would be located in School Creek valley, but the town site company located a station four miles east and called it Grafton. After the track had been laid through his homestead, Luther French surveyed and laid out the original town of Sutton and people began to locate and do business.

When the dry weather came on the last of July, our ten acres of corn which looked fine began to fail and in August we cut it up to save the fodder. We hired Bob Waddell to come and cut and rake hay for two days, which we hauled and stacked near the house for our horses and cow during winter, but the buffalo gnats nearly ate us up; only those who have encountered them can form any idea of the buffalo gnats. But they soon disappeared. As we had decided to bring mother and the girls out in the spring, it was necessary that we have more house room. Our dugout was 16x24 inside, so we decided to build a sod addition 16x16 on the south end. We got to work on it and in about four weeks had it ready to move into. We put the cook stove in the new addition and used it as a dining room. Our summer house we fixed up for a stable for our horses and cow, and were now pretty well fixed for winter. Brother Bob decided to open a law office in Sutton; he built and occupied as an office the room south of Figi & Rauscher's store now used as a barber shop. Brother Charley came out from Illinois in the fall and located on the northwest quarter of 10-8-5. John Kennedy on the northeast quarter of 2-8-5 wanted to build a frame house and I agreed to do the work at \$2.50 per day and board. I made out the bill for the house, went to Lincoln and ordered the stuff from Monell & Lashley to be shipped to Sutton. About ten days later I received notice that the lumber was in Sutton, and Mr. Kennedy commenced to haul it home and I commenced to work on his house. Charley and George got busy turning back the sod, broke during the summer to get the ground ready for crops next year.

The country around Sutton was rapidly filling up with settlers, and people began to talk about organizing and locating the county seat. At that time Clay county was attached to Saline county for revenue and other purposes. The organization of the county and location of the county seat at Sutton would be a help to the town and county. A meeting of the citizens of this corner of the county was held in Sutton and a committee appointed to manage the business. R. G. Brown, J. R. Maltby, J. M. Gray and others whom I do not remember were members of the committee. A petition was circulated requesting Governor James to call an election for the organization and location of the county seat and election of county officers. The election was called for October 14, 1871, at the home of Alexander Campbell, two miles east of Harvard. Judges and clerks of election were appointed by the

governor. Previous to the election a caucus was held in Sutton and candidates for county offices nominated as follows: Commissioners, A. K. Marsh, Peter O. Norman and A. A. Corey; County clerk, F. M. Brown; Treasurer, Jos. Hollingsworth; Sheriff, P. T. Kearney; Judge, J. R. Maltby; Superintendent, James S. Schermerhorn; Coroner, Jacob Steinmetz. Election day was cold and snow was blowing from the north, keeping a good many voters at home. The official vote was fifty-six for Sutton and forty-three for other locations, and the Sutton candidates were all elected by about the same majority. The returns of the election were sent Governor James, who issued certificates of election to the officers elected. The next thing was for county officers to qualify by giving bond and taking the oath of office required by law. All the officers elected qualified except Mr. Hollingsworth, treasurer-elect, who refused and declined the office, causing a vacancy. The county clerk called a meeting of county commissioners who organized by electing A. K. Marsh as chairman. The board appointed R. G. Brown county treasurer, to fill the vacancy, who qualified, but there was not a cent in the treasury! The board decided to hold regular meetings once a month and arranged with R. G. Brown for the use of his office in which to hold meetings and transact county business, but there was very little business at that time. The commissioners authorized the county clerk to procure the necessary books and blanks for the use of the county. The order was sent to Des Moines and soon after the books came. Brother Charles was appointed county clerk (deputy) to take care of such business as required immediate attention. While I was at work on Mr. Kennedy's house, which we finished so that the family moved in the first of November, but it was several days before the job was completed. A heavy snow fell Nov. 16, and we did not see the ground again until April. Whenever the weather was fit, we went to the Blue for wood, and got up enough to do us until fall. One of the first official duties I had to perform was to examine, count, destroy and certify a sack full of wolf and wild cat scalps for John W. Langford of Spring Ranche. At that time the state was paying bounties of \$1 on wolf and \$2 on wild cat scalps. The law required that each scalp should be split between the ears and destroyed and the number of each and the name of the owner certified to the state auditor. This was no pleasant duty, the odor of those scalps would kill flies. In a few days after I received a state warrant for about \$100 for Mr. Langford as bounty on scalps. When Langford called for his warrant, he asked how much he owed me. I said \$1 for the certificate and \$5 for destroyign the scalps. He never kicked, but paid and thanked me for my services. After that I counted the scalps and threw them into the fire. It was a cold winter and the country was covered with deep snow from the middle of November until the first of April. There was a good deal of corn, fodder and hay in the country and many deer came in from the west in search of food. We had ten acres of corn in the shock about half a mile from the house, a deer occasionally got a good meal on the corn and fodder. A deer had been living on this fodder for several weeks and could be seen almost any day out on the prairie west of the house. The only gun we had was a small muzzle loading shot gun, not a very reliable gun for long range shooting. One morning George noticed the deer lying on the snow about a quarter of a mile from the house. He decided to try a shot,

loaded the old gun with buck shot and started after the deer, but hardly expecting to get it; he crawled toward the deer until it got up, when he gave it both barrels, killing it. It was a young doe, fine and fat and made mighty good eating.

The principal supply of fresh meat in Sutton during the winter of 1871 was buffalo beef brought in and sold by hunters. Good buffalo meat could be had at five and six cents a pound; elk and antelope meat brought a little more. Pork was shipped in from Lincoln and sold at ten and twelve cents a pound; many rabbits and some grouse were killed and consumed. Hams and bacon were sold at stores. People with money had no difficulty in obtaining fresh and salt meats, but few of the settlers were well supplied with cash, most of them having to depend upon what game they could secure. We were able to kill a jack rabbit occasionally, and when stewed with pork, made good eating. Cottontails were scarce on the prairie then. We had plenty of good potatoes and lived fairly well. It was a long, cold winter, the ground being covered with snow from the middle of November to the first of April, and we were mighty glad to see spring. During the winter we had procured seed wheat, oats, barley and corn. As soon as the ground was in condition we started the harrow and seeder to work, and when we got done seeding we had twenty-five acres of wheat, twenty-five acres of barley, twenty acres of oats and about thirty acres of corn, which we put in by hand lever planter. We then put the mules on the breaking plow and kept them busy until harvest. As mother and the girls were coming out in May, we decided to put a plank floor in the sod house to make it more comfortable. The spring was favorable and the crops grew fast. On May 24th mother and the girls arrived from Illinois, and we were mighty glad to see them. We had made some garden and had plenty of lettuce, radishes and onions, with other stuff growing nicely. Mother and the girls thought it would be more comfortable if we had a frame house before winter came. We all agreed on the proposition. The only thing to decide was the expense of the building. I made out a bill for material for a house 16x32 with basement and 16x24, and got an estimate of the probable cost. By doing all the carpenter work and painting myself we could complete the house for about \$600, and we decided to build. We hired a man to dig the basement while we hauled the lumber and material from Sutton. After the excavation for the basement was completed, there came from the west an army of black and white striped bugs shaped like potato bugs, but four times as large, crawling slowly toward the east, but seeming to eat very little. Tens of thousands of the bugs tumbled into the basement and were unable to get out. A heavy rain left about an inch of water on the bottom of the basement and the bugs perished in the water and hot sun, and in about twenty-four hours a stench arose from the dead bugs, making it necessary to remove them. We shoveled out over two bushels of dead bugs and hauled them away on a wagon. The live bugs disappeared. Never before or after have I seen any bugs of this kind.

Harvest was coming on soon and work on the house had to wait. We bought a Woods-Thompson self-rake from Thompson & Young of Sutton, to cut our grain, which had to be bound by hand, as there were no self-binders then. Barley was the first grain ready to cut, and it took us about three days



to put the twenty-five acres in the shock, and about five days more to put it in the stack. It was our first crop of barley and a good one; next came the wheat and oats harvest which were fine crops and took five days to put them in the shock and about six days to stack the grain in good shape. On July 30, 1872, brother John died at York, Clark county, Illinois, aged 28 years, 2 months and 2 days. He was buried in York cemetery, leaving a young wife to mourn his untimely death. Had he lived he would have come to Sutton.

Late in the fall we got our threshing done and the yield was very satisfactory, the wheat making about 15 bushels, barley 30 and oats 40 bushels per acre. We sold the barley to W. D. Young of Sutton for 90 cents per bushel, but Joe Braun, representing the Crete brewery, offered \$1 per bushel for it the next day; there were no elevators or regular grain buyers in Sutton. Our barley brought us about \$600 and was the first money we had realized off of our land, and we felt greatly encouraged as our acreage in crops would be doubled the next year. We got the new house finished, furnished and the folks moved into it before cold weather commenced and were very comfortably fixed.

The first Fourth of July celebration held in Sutton was in 1872 and was well attended, people coming from twenty miles around. R. G. Brown delivered the oration. F. M. Brown organized the Clay County Agricultural Society in 1872. H. W. Gray was president, and F. M. Brown, secretary. The first fair was held in Sutton on the ground north of the B. & M. depot.

Expenses were paid by collections from business men and saloons, premiums were mostly special prizes offered by Sutton people. I remember I offered \$10.00 for the best ten pounds of butter, and that Mrs. Marsh won it. One of the features of the fair that attracted much interest was the ladies' horseback riding and racing contest. Miss Nellie Henderson of York county, now Mrs. Young of York, and Miss Mattie Brown, now Mrs. Dr. A. H. Keller of Sioux Falls, S. D., competed for the prizes: first, a ten dollar gold ring; second, \$5 in cash. Miss Henderson rode a man's saddle, Miss Brown a side saddle. Miss Henderson won first, but Miss Brown did so well that Mr. Gray decided that she should have a ten dollar ring also, and she received it with the president's compliments. At that time there were a number of saloons in the county paying no license except the federal tax; the county passed a resolution to tax saloons \$25 a year, quite a number of saloons complied by paying the tax and procuring license from the county clerk. Three of the saloons were in Sutton. The saloon tax was the first money to come into the county treasury.

We raised a fair corn crop that year and now that we had feed for hogs, I went to Lincoln to attend a sale of hogs from Illinois, but they sold so high that I did not bid on them. After the sale was over, there were four head of culls left, the owner offering them to me for \$75 for the lot. I bought them and shipped them home. They turned out all right and formed the basis of a large herd in a short time.

County business increased so that a county office building was badly needed, and in the spring of 1873 the board decided to build a small courthouse, 16x40, with three rooms on the first floor for the clerk, judge and treasurer, with the court room above. There was no money in the treasury and

county warrants were at a discount of 25 per cent. Bids were called for and F. M. Brown, being the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract at \$1,600 in county warrants. I bought the lumber and material from Thurlow Weed who had a lumber yard south of the railroad on the ground now occupied by the Nebraska-Iowa elevator. As soon as the lumber was delivered we went to work on the job, and in about four weeks we had it completed, and the county officers moved in. The court house was located on the northeast corner of block 24, original town of Sutton, now occupied by Gus Bender's residence.

What was called the great Easter storm commenced on the 13th of April, 1873, and lasted three days, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the blizzard drifting the snow into banks as much as fifteen feet high, and School creek filled level with its banks. Much live stock in the state perished. Mrs. Fred Kaley residing northeast of Sutton, and child, attempting to go to a neighbor's, lost her way and both perished in the snow. Old settlers of Nebraska will never forget the great Easter storm of '73. But we raised a good crop that year.

August 3, 1873, Francis M. Brown and Mary C. Culver were married in Chicago and came directly to the homestead four miles north of Sutton, and lived there until late in the fall, when they moved to town and lived in the Jenkins house which stood on the ground where John Cook's residence is now located in east Sutton, where our oldest son, Charles, was born May 20, 1874. We lived there until our new house was completed in June, then moved into it.

Sutton was incorporated as a village October 15, 1874, by resolutions, adopted by the board of county commissioners, the board of trustees being F. M. Brown, chairman; J. C. Merrill, J. J. Melvin, W. A. Way and M. V. Clark; J. A. Tout was appointed clerk, F. M. Davis treasurer and I. D. Emery marshal. The first term of district court in Clay county was held in Sutton in 1873, Hon. D. Gantt, member of the Nebraska Supreme Court, presiding, with F. M. Brown, clerk, and J. B. Dinsmore, sheriff.

In July, 1874, Nebraska was visited by a plague of grasshoppers that ate up all growing crops in two days; large fields of corn disappeared like magic in a few hours. Fortunately the wheat, oats and barley had been harvested and was saved by stacking. We had eighty acres in corn and not a stalk was left, but our small grain crops were good and we fed our horses, hogs and cows on oats and ground barley. Corn was shipped from Illinois and sold at \$1.00 per bushel. It was a hard year for new settlers, and thousands abandoned their homesteads and left the state discouraged. Many men and women went east to solicit aid for destitute settlers, and the people of the east responded nobly with food and clothing. As county clerk I issued commissions under seal to solicitors and appointed committees to distribute the supplies needed. I know men who received aid that winter who are now well-to-do farmers. The grasshoppers left the ground full of eggs in the fall that hatched the next spring, and the ground was fairly alive with little hoppers, and the situation looked very discouraging when a cold rain and snow storm came along and killed nearly all of the little pests, so they did not do much damage that year. Had it not been for the providential storm killing the pests, we would not have raised anything.

On November 28, 1875, our second son, Fred L., was born. In 1875 J. B. Dinsmore was elected county clerk and assumed the office in January 1876.

In the spring we moved to the farm, and mother and the girls moved to Sutton. I built the little brick building now occupied by Hanke, the tailor, for a meat market. It was the first brick business house in Sutton. The market was run by brother Charles, and we did the butchering on the farm where we had a slaughter house. We closed out the business in 1881.

Our eldest daughter, Estelle, was born on the farm, January 5, 1878, and our second daughter, Lela, was born December 11, 1879.

In 1878, R. G. Brown built the Occidental Hotel in Sutton; I had the contract and did the work. We had 500 acres of land in cultivation, which compelled us to keep from three to five hands in harvest, and threshing ten or fifteen more. This made a great deal of work about the house, cooking and washing for so many persons, and it was almost impossible to get female help. It was too much for Mrs. Brown, and after five years her strength began to fail and we decided to leave the farm. We made a sale of the machinery and some stock, reserving four horses and about 75 head of cattle, which George drove to Custer county, where he had located a ranch on the south side of the Middle Loup. We rented the farm, and I moved back to Sutton and engaged in buying and feeding stock. At that time there were no stock yards at Omaha, and we shipped all stock to Chicago.

While we lived on the farm sister Martha and Mary both married, leaving mother alone to keep house for Charley. Mary married W. L. Weed, B. & M. agent in Sutton. Martha married Dr. A. H. Keller of Sutton. Soon after George moved to Custer he married Miss Amy Lovejoy. Brother Charles went to Denver, and from there to California. He died on January 27, 1913.

At the city election in Sutton in 1879, R. G. Brown was elected mayor. C. W. Brown was a member of the city council in 1880. F. M. Brown was elected mayor in 1882-3-4: In 1883 the Sutton Building & Improvement Co. was organized and built the Sutton opera house. F. M. Brown was one of the original stockholders and its first manager, and still retains an interest in the company.

September 15, 1884, our third son, Joseph H., was born. June 1, 1886, I bought the Sutton Register, and am still on the job, and probably have set more type by hand than any other man of my age in Nebraska, and with the assistance of my son Charles, the Register is still able to get out once a week and has not missed an issue in 37 years. Can you beat it?

November 29, 1886, our fourth son, George R., was born. In 1888, F. M. Brown was elected police judge of Sutton and is still dealing out justice to local offenders. F. M. Brown assisted in the organization of Evening Star Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M., and was its first secretary, and subsequently filled every station in the lodge; also a member of Lebanon Chapter, R. A. M., and council. And was also a member of the G. A. R. November 13, 1890, our daughter Anna May was born; May 11, 1893, our fourth daughter, Fay Evelyn, was born. R. G. Brown was city attorney in 1900, and served several terms afterward.

Death closed the history of quite a number of our family since we came to Nebraska. Brother John died in Illinois, July 30, 1872, aged 28 years and 2 months. Our son, Joseph, died November 12, 1886, aged 2 years 1 month and 28 days. Our daughter, Anna May, died November 8, 1893, aged 2 years 11

months and 25 days. Our mother, Mary R. Brown, died at Sioux Falls, May 14, 1897, aged 77 years 10 months and 8 days. Our son-in-law, Charles M. Calmes, died at Seward, July 13, 1898. Our son, Fred., died at Denver, April 25, 1903, aged 27 years 5 months and 26 days. Brother Charles died at Sawtelle, Calif., January 27, 1913, aged 74 years 9 months and 13 days, and was buried in the National cemetery. Brother George W. and family live at Sargent, Nebr., where he is in the banking business. Brother Robert G. and family live in Sutton. Sister Martha Keller and family live at Sioux Falls, S. D. Sister Mrs. Mary Weed and family live at Denver. Our son, Charles M., and family live in Sutton. He is business manager of the Sutton Register, and city clerk. Our daughter, Mrs. Estelle Calmes, and son, Francis M., live in Sutton. Francis is one of the graduates of the high school this year. Our daughter, Mrs. Lela M. Walt, and family live in Lincoln. Our son, George R., and family live in Minnesota. Our youngest daughter, Mrs. Fay E. Deumeyer, and her husband live in Lincoln.

This completes our family history up to date. As I said in the opening chapters of this family history, I believe it to be the duty of every man to leave to his family and friends as full and complete family history as possible. Most of this family history are recollections of the writer, as I had little or no records to refer to. There may be some errors and some omissions of incidents in the history of the family, but it is the best I could do without assistance; and you must remember that it was written by a man 77 years old, and he may have forgotten some incidents worth recording. The history has run in the Register for 40 consecutive weeks; every word was written and every line set in type by my own hand, and completes a work long delayed, one that I probably shall never undertake again, but I trust that some one will take up the work where I leave off, and preserve the history for future generations.

Yours truly,

FRANCIS M. BROWN.

#### JUDGE DILWORTH ON THE EARLY DAYS

Within the past two years, succession of his predecessor, Judge Dorsey, to the Supreme Court Commission, which led to the appointment of William A. Dilworth to the District Judgeship, and a change of Clay County to his judicial district, brought to Clay County this jurist who was able to give the Clay County Sun, in September, 1920, a reminiscence of the early days of the county, which will supply still further angles upon some of the early and interesting incidents.

#### A MEMORY TOUR

I remember one time when my father was District Attorney, that court met at Lowell, a county seat at that time of Kearney County, there were seven murder trials. Of course this required the summoning of extra jurors. The sheriff of the county owned a span of Dun mares. To all appearances they were not extraordinary, but he used them in all his work. When he put his bill in for summoning those jurors, it showed that they had all been summoned in one day, and the mileage claim was for something like 3300 miles. He only

had one team, and the county commissioners thought that was a pretty heavy mileage for one team, and they cut it down to 1500 miles.

Father, who at that time owned only a span of bronchos wanted that team as he needed such travelers to get over his district more rapidly, and he purchased them for \$150.00. However we could never get the travel out of them that the sheriff claimed to have done.

I remember very well, some of the history of Clay County. The Burlington railroad, when it constructed its line of road from the Missouri river to Kearney, laid out the town site and named the towns in alphabetical order, commencing with Ashland just east of Lincoln, and then Burks, at that time the first station west of Lincoln, then Crete, Dorchester, Exeter, Fairmont, Grafton, Harvard, Inland, etc. Somebody however had started a town down on the creek and had named it Sutton. The railroad was somewhat disgruntled at this and tried to kill the effort to build a town. The citizens however, located the county seat and the place was building up in spite of the railroad. In fact the Railroad refused to recognize Sutton as a station, and refused to stop its trains there for a long while.

They were trying to build up Harvard as the main town on the line in the county. At last an effort was made to move the county seat from Sutton to Harvard, and it was a contest long to be remembered. The election was called at the same time as the general election was held. In those days everybody almost, were Republicans, and everybody that voted in the election, not only voted on the county seat matter but also for the state officers, and the Republicans had an overwhelming majority. In fact, there were so many Republicans voted at that election that at the next Republican State Convention, Clay County had more delegates than Lancaster or Douglas County, or any other in the state.

#### POP DAYS

We used to have great times during Populist days, and many arguments were heard pro and con.

I remember one time of being out at Cambridge, and I went to hear a joint debate between candidates for the legislature. One a Republican and the other a Populist. I went and listened with a great deal of interest. The Republican made the first speech. He detailed at great length what the Republican party had done for the country, and amongst other things, he called the attention of the crowd to the fact that the Republican party had furnished them all with free land and free homes out in the west. I, as a Republican, sat there and listened with a great deal of satisfaction and wondered how the Populist candidate was going to answer all these things satisfactorily, for the reason that the crowd consisted of homesteaders, most of whom had proven up on their land. Pretty soon the Populist candidate started in, and he answered all the arguments of the Republican very closely, taking up each separate detail and making a plausible explanation, until it came down to the free home proposition. I was taking a great deal of pleasure at the prospect of his falling down on that. There was a crowd of people who had enjoyed the privilege of such law, although it was true that the dry weather had been extraordinary for two or three years, and the prospects were mighty

dubious, yet the fact remained that the government had furnished them free land. The Populist candidate at last said, "Friends, my opponent has called your attention to the law enacted as he claims, by the Republican Congressman giving us all free homes in Nebraska. Why, my friends, you all know and realize that the Government was only betting 160 acres of this land against \$18.00 that you couldn't live on it five years, and that the Government is ahead of the deal today." I must confess that this got the crowd, and I had to laugh heartily.

#### HARD TIMES IN EARLY NEBRASKA

I lived over on the Platte river in Phelps County, during the dry time and grasshopper years, when everything went glimmering. The times were pretty hard in those days, and the effort to make something to live on was extreme. I venture to assert that for two years the early pioneers of this part of the country lived from picking up Buffalo bones which were scattered over all the prairie. It would take two or three days to pick a load of these bones, and hardly in any instance amounting to more than a ton, and then two days to haul them over to Kearney, where they got \$4.50 or possibly \$5.00 per ton. I remember one day four teams loaded with buffalo bones went by my place, driven by neighbors, and neighbors in those days meant anywhere from five to ten miles, on their way to Kearney. The next day I had to go to Kearney, and about one mile west of the Kearney bridge where the road ran along the Platte river, I found those neighbors camped, and I stopped to gossip with them. It was about two in the afternoon, and I asked one of them why they didn't drive into town and unload and go back and camp there for the night. They probably would have saved about 24 hours by doing that. One of them replied that his team was tired, and as time cut no figure with them, they decided to stop until the next day. In fact, they had got that far the day before, and were taking this day to rest up. I noticed under the wagon the ground was wet, and as there had been no rain for days and days, I was somewhat surprised at this and I remarked: "What in the world are you doing, there is water under your wagons." He looked up at me with a grin and said, "Bill, it is wonderful how much moisture those old Buffalo heads and bones will absorb during the night." I caught on, and I could not help but think that times were pretty hard when men would sit up all night and carry water and pour over dry buffalo bones to get extra weight.

## CHAPTER IV

### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF CLAY COUNTY

THE STORY OF THE CENSUS—RIVERS—SOIL—GRASSHOPPERS—EARLY TRAFFIC—BLIZZARD—STORM—PRAIRIE FIRE—HOMESTEADERS—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

#### CLAY COUNTY

Clay County is known Congressionally as Townships 5, 6, 7 and 8 west, in Ranges 5, 6, 7 and 8 north. It is almost divided equally by the longitudinal line 21 degree west of Washington, between 40 degree and 41 degree north latitude. The estimated area is 576 square miles or 368,640 acres, and the estimated population is 14,795, this total being based on the 2,758 votes cast for the county treasurer in November, 1889, multiplied by five. In 1870 the population was 54; in 1874, 3,622; in 1875, 4,183; in 1876, 4,785; in 1877, 5,652; in 1878, 7,012; in 1879, 9,373; in 1880, 11,299 and in 1885, 14,157. The measured elevations above sea level are: Sutton, 1,680 feet; Clay Center, 1,687 feet; Spring Ranche, 1,717 feet; Fairfield, 1,782 feet; Edgar, 1,728 feet; Glenville, 1,842 feet; Verona, 1,776 feet; and all below the elevations in Adams and Hall Counties. Its gradual growth in the past two decades is attested by the detailed figures of the 1920 census.

Minor civil division	1920	1910	1900
Clay County .....	14,486	15,729	15,735
Clay Center city .....	965	1,065	590
Edgar township, including Edgar city.....	1,449	1,507	1,572
Eldorado township .....	463	607	688
Fairfield township, including Dewesse village and Fairfield city .....	1,450	1,776	1,926
Glenville township, including Glenville village.....	849	762	810
Harvard township, including Harvard city.....	1,605	1,716	1,502
Inland township .....	574	564	726
Leicester township, including part of Trumbull village .....	668	694	701
Lewis township, including part of Saronville village	610	712	735
Logan township, including Ong village.....	840	830	722
Lone Tree township .....	466	562	676
Lynn township .....	465	581	713
Marshall township .....	395	459	480
School Creek township, including part of Sutton city	637	667	708
Sheridan township .....	442	503	528

Spring Ranch township.....	489	508	641
Sutton township, including parts of Saronville village and Sutton city .....	2,119	2,216	2,017
Incorporated place .....	1920	1910	1900
Clay, Centre city .....	965	1,065	590
Dewesse village .....	144	....	....
Edgar city .....	996	1,080	1,040
Fairfield city .....	784	1,054	1,203
Glenville village .....	400	304	246
Harvard city .....	991	1,102	849
Ong village .....	265	285	....
Saronville village .....	141	....	....
Sutton city .....	1,603	1,702	1,365
Trumbull village (part of)*.....	232	....	....

*Rivers:* The Little Blue enters the county at a point west of Spring Ranche, flows in a general course southeast, and leaves the county at Section 34, of Fairfield Township, about five miles south of the town of that name. The west fork of Big Sandy Creek rises in Glenville Township, and flowing southeast, through Fairfield, leaves the county in Section 34 of Logan Township.

The head waters of the west branch of the Big Blue wander through Leicester and Harvard Township, and feeders of this stream run through Lincoln and School Creek Townships. The south branch of the Big Blue rises in Lynn Township, with one stream coming down from Harvard City, and flows in a general eastern course to Sutton, where it follows a northwestern channel to its junction with the west branch south of Lushton. In every section of the county pure water is found at from forty to 100 feet; while numerous streams run through depressions in the prairie.

*Soil:* The soil is very productive, requiring only little labor from the husbandman to show most satisfactory results. It is related that during the terrible year of 1874, land which cost \$10 per acre and \$9.07 per acre for breaking, cross-plowing, seeding, harvesting, stacking and threshing, almost paid for itself that year. The soil is heavier and richer than that of adjoining counties, and every resident agriculturist points to Clay County as the paradise of the farmer. Tests of sugar beets grown near Fairfield in 1889 shows 4.27 per cent of sucrose; while a very early test by L. E. Wales, of Edgar, of beets grown in that section of the county, indicates 6.54 per cent.

*Grasshoppers:* The grasshopper plague of 1874, described in the State history, did not overlook Clay. Every crop, except the wheat and barley, then harvested, was eaten up, leaving the settlers in a condition almost approaching poverty. Aid rendered by Congress and the State, as well as by the people, poured in to alleviate the distress, and in the fall of 1874 a committee of citizens was formed at Sutton to make an equitable distribution of this aid, namely: C. M. Turner, F. W. Hohman, R. G. Merrill, George Stewart and J. Steinmetz. Sutton was selected as the depot for the district which included parts of Fillmore, York and Hamilton Counties, and all Clay County. W. A. Gunn was

\* In Adams and Clay counties. Combined population, 1920—236.



president and M. J. Hull, vice-president of the sub-committee at Edgar, in the district of which Harvard was the depot. One-half a carload of United States army clothing was distributed from Harvard, while from this point and Sutton, several carloads of coal and provisions were given out.

The people of necessity suffered much from the result of the insects' visitation, but they recovered in a surprisingly short time, and the following year found them in a position of comparative prosperity.

*Early Traffic:* The distance from the great grain markets of Chicago, coupled with the high charges of the railroad companies, militated in early days against the agriculturists, not only of this section, but also throughout the whole State. The land produced abundantly, enough to supply twenty times the number of inhabitants of Nebraska; but the prices obtainable for grain and other products have been so low as almost to oppose the idea of marketing farm produce. In February, 1890, Gov. Thayer and the people cried out for better terms from the railroads, and the railroad magnates consented reluctantly to a 10 per cent reduction in carrying charges. Throughout the country, in February, 1890, great heaps of golden grain waiting shipment near every depot and farm house, told very plainly of the bounteous harvest of the year before.

As forest countries claim celebrated choppers; hemlock countries, famous bark-peelers; and mountain countries, hunters notorious and otherwise; so also do the rich corn fields of Nebraska claim heroic workers. In 1889-90, Albert Walters picked and cribbed 1,750 bushels of corn in seventeen days for Hugh Londin, and for Davis, superintendent of the poor farm, 3,994 bushels in thirty-three days.

*Blizzard:* The blizzards of 1857-58 do not seem to have damaged personal property in this county. In November, 1871, a severe snow storm swept over this section. During its progress a settler named McGoon, and his son, living three and a half miles south of Harvard, started for the village, and had almost arrived there, when the older McGoon became dazed with the cold and failed to keep up with the son. After the storm a search was instituted, and his frozen body was found at the edge of the village corporation.

The blizzard of April 13, 1873, commenced with a heavy, cold rain, which during the night, changed to sleet. On the 14th the air was filled with a heavy, watery snow, and this, driven by the strong wind, penetrated the heaviest clothing. The storm continued with abated violence until the morning of the 16th. Snow banks were as high as the house tops in many places, and the ravines and creeks were packed full of this peculiar snowy substance. Cattle growers suffered heavily, their stock being driven to death before the gale. A Mrs. Kelly, of School Creek precinct, ventured to a neighbor's, a few rods away, saying as she started out that she would die with her baby. Both were lost and were frozen to death. In the transactions of the commissioners the names of many other sufferers are given.

*Hail Storm:* The hail storm of 1881 was as phenomenal as it was disastrous. It swept across the northern sections from the northwest in the summer time, pounding into the earth the growing crops. This storm cleared a five mile course, and during its forty-five minutes advance through the northern townships of the county left nothing in the way of crops untouched.

The storm of May 6, 1889, destroyed a good deal of property in and around Fairfield. Anawalt's new house in Canada was blown down.

*Prairie Fire:* The prairie fire of the same year was started by the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad section men on the south side of the track. Some cinders were carried across the track by the wind, the tall grass caught fire, and from this very small beginning the blaze spread out until it had licked up the prairie grasses almost to the banks of the Platte River. Many residents lost heavily in this fire, but the losses were partly met by the railroad company.

In July, 1884, sparks from a St. Joseph & Western Railroad locomotive set fire to the prairie one mile south of Fairfield, and spreading to the farms of Horace Tibbits, John Palmer and A. B. Palmer, destroyed their crops, orchards, hay and other property.

The prairie fire of April, 1885, originated on the Lewis farm five miles south of Edgar. The people turned out in large number and organized to fight the fire, and at the bridge, near M. H. Cushing's house, elected A. G. Jacobs captain. The work of back-firing, plowing and wet sacking the prairie was carried out systematically and with success. In the chapters devoted to local history references are made to smaller prairie fires.

*Homesteaders:* The homesteaders or the pioneers of 1871 to 1873, who resided on their original claims in 1888, were named as follows and the location of their lands given: Mrs. A. S. Harding (husband deceased), from Illinois, settled on Section 22; J. W. Smith, from Illinois, on Section 28; Riley Thurber, from Ohio, on Section 34; J. W. Stacy, from Ohio, on Section 34; James Woodhead, from Wisconsin, on Section 8; Albert and William Woodhead, from Wisconsin, on Section 2; Mrs. Charles Hurlbut (husband deceased), from Michigan, on Section 14; Charles Ashley, from Wisconsin, on Section 8; Charles Bump, from Illinois, on Section 21; Peter Bures, from Illinois, on Section 32; (all the foregoing in Township 4, Range 6); Mason Hungerford, from Michigan, on Section 4; Township 5, Range 6; J. Sanderson, from Wisconsin, on Section 22; J. J. and O. W. McCloughen, from Wisconsin, on Section 24; C. A. Bush, from Illinois, on Section 14; H. H. Perry, from Michigan, on Section 10; S. D. Beck, from Illinois, on Section 10; H. Linscott, from Maine, on Section 12; Otto Sirini, from Illinois, on Section 10 (all in Township 5, Range 5); J. N. Johnson, from Illinois, on Section 4; A. Wiggins, from Michigan, on Section 9; R. Culp, from Illinois, on Section 10; John Marshall, from Illinois, on Section 22; William Trent, from Illinois, on Section 9 (all in Township 5, Range 5); J. G. Graham, from Illinois, on Section 2; Range 4, Township 5; S. T. Caldwell, from Illinois, on Section 4, Township 4, Range 6; William Prouty, from Michigan, on Section 32, Township 4, Range 6; Mrs. Daniel Lenfest (husband deceased), from Maine, on Section 4, Township 5, Range 5; David Smith, from Missouri, on Section 22, Township 6, Range 6; J. H. Hazlett, from Illinois, on Section 22, Township 6, Range 6; B. F. Nall, from Illinois, on Section 22, Township 6, Range 6; Mrs. L. Graham, from Illinois, on Section 12, Township 4, Range 5; Jeff Adcock, from Illinois, on Section 34, Township 5, Range 6; F. Northrop, from Illinois, on Section 34, Township 5, Range 6; D. B. Sanburn, from Illinois, on Section 4, Township 5; Range 6; Jesse Dalton, from Illinois, on Section 32, Township 4, Range 6; A. G. Jacobs, from Ohio, on Section 12, Township 5, Range 6; E. S. Smith, from Illinois, on Section 12, Township 5, Range 6; A. J.

Long, from Indiana, on Section 20, Township 5, Range 5; C. Isham, from Ohio, on Section 4, Township 5, Range 5; S. Northrop, from Illinois, on Section 34, Township 5, Range 6; D. Essinger, from Illinois, on Section 2, Township 5, Range 6.

The Clay County Agricultural Society was organized April 15, 1872, at the court house in Sutton. A. K. Marsh was chosen president, and J. M. Ramsey, secretary. Annual fairs were held after its establishment, until 1881, when the exhibition took place at Clay Center. The fair grounds embracing forty acres of land, were owned by a stock company composed of about fifty of the most wealthy citizens of the county, the use of these grounds being extended to the society for making their exhibits. Up to 1882 the society did not fail to make a creditable exhibition, even during the disastrous years of the grass-hopper plague, always paying the premium list in full, and at present has a balance in the treasury. A meeting of the society was held March 4, 1882, at Clay Center, at which the following officers were selected: D. Leitch, J. E. Kenyon, E. Austin, M. G. Perryman, A. P. Randall, C. Shetler, A. J. McPeak, G. H. VanDuyne, T. R. Elder and Jesse Eller. Some seventeen directors were chosen. In March, 1884, Jesse F. Eller was re-elected president, and H. B. Strong, secretary. At this time the proposition to grant a fifteen years membership to holders of \$10 stock certificates was carried and a life membership conferred on G. H. VanDuyne for services rendered as treasurer. The fair was held at Clay Center this year. In March, 1885, M. S. Price was chosen president, and H. B. Strong, secretary. Those officers re-elected in 1886 and in 1887, when George E. Birge was chosen treasurer. M. S. Price was re-elected president in 1888 with W. B. Smith, secretary and H. E. McDowell, treasurer, while, in 1889, the president and treasurer were re-elected, George F. Dixon chosen secretary, and B. H. Dunn, Clive Eller, John C. Ward, G. F. Warren and John H. Tower, vice-presidents. The elections of 1890 resulted in the choice of Charles Hoebet, president; W. B. Smith, secretary; W. J. Gardner, treasurer; D. T. Phillips, general superintendent; Guy Secord, assistant superintendent; A. M. Perry, marshal.

The Swine Breeders Association was presided over in 1889 by W. J. Cox with S. McKelvie, secretary. The association elected the following named officers in February, 1890: W. J. Cox, president; Cleveland Eller, vice-president; S. McKelvie, secretary, and W. E. Spicer, treasurer.

Pursuant to call, delegates from five Farmers' Alliances of Clay County met at East Fairfield, November 23, 1889, to organize a county alliance. After speeches by J. H. Powers, president of the State Alliance, and some of the delegates, a county alliance was organized with L. McReynolds, of Fairfield, as president; J. L. Hodges, of Edgar, vice-president; W. T. Dalton, of Edgar, secretary; L. R. Chapman, treasurer. East Fairfield was chosen as the place of meeting, December 14, 1889.

During the years 1870-71 agricultural life in Clay County was primitive in every sense. The pioneers of that period erected their sod houses, and made the faint beginnings of progress. During the fall of 1875 there were 412 cars of grain shipped from Harvard, 330 cars from Sutton, and 500 from Fairfield, Edgar and Glenville. Wheat averaged sixty-five cents, and the total yield of Clay County was worth \$600,000. As the years rolled by the area of cultivated

land was increased, and today the county holds a first place among the great productive divisions of Nebraska.

The area of her progress has been marked also by the growth of towns. Harvard and Sutton in the north, and Fairfield and Edgar in the south, are evidences of this remarkable growth.

## CHAPTER V

### MODERN FARM ORGANIZATIONS

#### GOOD ROADS IN CLAY COUNTY—MATERIAL ASSETS OF CLAY COUNTY.

#### MODERN FARM ORGANIZATIONS

Clay County has participated very strongly in the modern Farmer's Union movement, having local unions in almost every precinct and village, and farmer's elevators and stores scattered throughout the county. The Clay County Farm Bureau with well over a thousand members is one of the most active in the state, and one of the first to adopt its own paper and to secure from the press throughout the county weekly space and keep its activities and suggestions before the people. J. H. Claybaugh, the county agent is a splendid worker along these lines. The following two short excerpts have been selected from among a great many available ones to briefly set forth the variety and scope of this institution's work.

The campaign for membership in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation started on October 25th and continued with a one week intermission until December 18th. In that short period approximately 15,000 members have been obtained in the seventeen counties canvassed, or an average of about 852 to the county. As you know, many counties are constantly turning in additional members from among the farmers whom the canvassers were unable to see during the initial campaign, and it is safe to predict that eventually the average membership should be 1000 per county, or about 70,000 for the entire state, as of course, some twenty Nebraska counties are not highly agricultural territory. The counties so far canvassed produced the following memberships: Buffalo, 1337; Hamilton, 1189; Dawson, 1129; Seward, 1007; Richardson, 998; Cass, 835; Polk, 826; Clay, 804; Lancaster, 765; Fillmore, 746; Red Willow, 710; Thurston, 653; Hall, 610; Madison, 545; Dakota, 495; Frontier not complete at this writing, 725.

At the second annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation held at Indianapolis, Indiana, December 6, President Howard told of the work of the American Federation in keeping down railroad rate increases and in working the National Industrial Conference Board to prevent legislation being passed that would impose heavy taxes on the common citizens rather than the powerful business interests.

Mr. McKenzie represented agriculture while serving on this board. This is the first time this conference has ever recognized the organized farmer.

Report from December 1, 1918 to November 22, 1919.

The following statistical report of the Farm Bureau office tells many of the agents' activities for the second year of the Farm Bureau:

Letters received, 2,262; letters written, 2,711; phone calls, 1,640; calls on agent, 810; days in field, 166½; days in office, 115½; farm visits, 621; press articles, 516; miles by auto, 6,705; miles by rail, 1,003; hogs vaccinated, 3,416; calves vaccinated, 584; meetings, 182; attendance, 1,737.

Meetings at plowing contests and tours not counted.

The 1919 Farm Bureau expenses from December 1, 1918 to November 22, 1919, are as follows:

Gas, \$177.97; oil, \$16.00; garage, \$9.00; repairs, \$70.12; tires, \$166.64; car equipment, \$9.50; sundry for car, \$128.35; office help, \$329.01; printing, \$33.35; office supplies, \$74.98; equipment, office, \$71.70; sundry, office, \$47.24; agent's salary, \$600.00; total, \$1,733.86.

The following are the 1920 officers: Walter Burgess, president; A. L. Hoydar, vice-president; Walter Hogue, secretary-treasurer; of Fairfield. The following directors were re-elected: H. L. Boge, A. L. Lamp, H. L. McKelvie, E. P. McReynolds and D. C. Hinds.

J. H. Claybaugh, County Agricultural Agent; P. W. Proctor, Junior Club Leader; Phone, 43, office in Court House, Clay Center, Nebraska.

Officers for 1921: Walter Burgess, president; H. L. McKelvie, vice-president; O. McKelvie, secretary-treasurer. Executive Committee: J. V. Dieringer, Harvard, Lynn Township; H. L. Boge, Harvard, Eldorado Township; O. B. Percival, Sutton, Sutton Township; J. L. Burt, Glenville, Glenville Township; J. W. Robb, Ong, Logan Township. Other Township Representatives on Executive Board: W. D. Phelps, Trumbull, Leicester Township; Will Matteson, Sutton, School Creek Township; C. W. McClanahan, Clay Center, Lewis Township; Gilbert Holt, Inland, Inland Township; J. A. Swigart, Clay Center, Marshall Township; Will Blaney, Edgar, Sheridan Township; H. V. Mallory, Edgar, Edgar Township; Clarence Pomery, Spring Ranch, Spring Ranch Township; Nels Torstenson, Harvard, Harvard Township.

#### GOOD ROADS

The greatest achievement of the past few years has been the wonderful several million dollars per annum program for the establishment of permanently surfaced and well-graded and maintained good roads, and state highways. The expense on these is shared in certain proportions by the Federal Government, the State Departments and the taxes raised from the various counties and the automobile license taxes.

In this work, Clay County is playing its particular part. The excerpt selected which follows shows the status of the plans early in 1921. When all of the present plans are completed there will be the Denver-Lincoln-Detroit (formerly O-L-D) road, across the county via Sutton and Harvard, and by a south cross line via Edgar and Fairfield, and roads to Clay Center.

The wonderful development of the automobile within the past two decades has hastened this changed condition of the highways beyond measure, and Clay County is keeping up the pace with other counties.

All parts of Clay County were well represented at the county board meeting in the court house last Friday, February 20, 1921. Many came expecting

to see a big fight between various sections of the county over which road would be constructed first. But these went away disappointed, for as far as we have been able to learn, every one there got what he wanted and in getting it received the unanimous support of the rest of the county. Edgar and Fairfield were especially well represented, and their actions left no doubt in the minds of the board as to where the south side of the county stands on the matter of a federal road. The south side expected opposition from Clay Center, but were pleased to find us boosting for their road, just as we are always ready to boost for any proposition that means more prosperity to any part of the county.

The Clay Center crowd, being the first to arrive on the scene, was given the first opportunity to be heard. The Chamber of Commerce selected as its spokesman, Judge Ray, because he and Ernest Frisch had been sent down to Lincoln previously to find out just where we stand in this matter. It was soon evident that the Judge was well posted in his subject, and in a brief and concise manner outlined the situation, and recommended to the board that the road through the south of the county be designated at once, and that the board pass the resolution demanded by the state department for securing the state machinery for the Geneva road. The latter was the only thing requested by the Clay Center Chamber of Commerce.

By the time Judge Ray had finished the Edgar people had arrived and presented their side of the case. In support of their views, they asked all who were from the south side of the county to stand. About half of the audience arose. All Clay Center men who were in favor of the south road were then asked to stand, and every man from Clay Center in the room did so. With this manifestation of public sentiment, the board could do but one thing, and that was to grant the request.

In the afternoon session the details of the plans were discussed and definite arrangements decided upon. As finally adopted, the new south road will extend as follows:

It will enter Clay County one mile north of the southeast corner of the county. From there it will run seven miles straight west, at which place it will strike the St. Joseph and Grand Island railroad track, which it will follow into Edgar. It will leave Edgar on the half mile road and run straight west to the present federal road from Clay Center to Superior. It will then go north three and one-half miles on the present federal road to the road running south of Fairfield. Thence two miles west and one-half mile north and through Fairfield to the west to the section line, thence north to the township line. From here it will run seven miles west to the southwest corner of Section 33 of Glenville Township, and from there north to the southeast corner of the section containing Glenville. It will then run west one-half mile and north one mile through Glenville, and then one-half mile west. From there it will run five miles north to the D. L. D.

The first road declared was from where the present federal road meets the D. L. D. north to the county line. This is only six miles, and was declared in accordance with the previous plans of the board. After that the south road was declared. The board then passed the resolution requested by Clay Center, with sufficient safeguards to guarantee that it would be ineffective unless properly supported by the townships.

## CLAY COUNTY'S ASSETS

A great deal of space could be devoted to discussing Clay County's agricultural and material assets, but the following extract taken from Editor Howard's annual discussion of tax lists, while done slightly in a light vein and treating upon undervaluation so commonly practiced tends to throw a good deal of light upon the assets of the county in 1920.

In this county we have 2,168 yearling steers of an actual value of \$24.25 each and they have 2,958 sisters that average \$20.88. In the two year old class we find 521 steers averaging \$40.39 and 1,549 heifers valued at \$31.94 each. We have less than a carload (42) three year old steers valued at \$48.21 each and cows of the same age are priced at \$42.28, and there are 1,159 of them. The assessors found 1,657 dry cows and placed an average actual value on them of \$50.70 each while the 5,618 milk cows average \$64.77. That the Pure Bred Sires campaign is registering is evident from the fact that we have in this county 215 registered bulls of an average value of \$64.18 (don't laugh, you registered bull men), and the 512 grade bulls are valued at \$45.18 each. There are 1,329 head of fat cattle in the county and they are worth \$74.66 apiece. The total number of cattle of all descriptions in the county is 17,741 with an actual value of \$821,130.

Yearling colts are worth \$26.26 apiece and we have of them 646. The two year olds are priced at \$41.56 and we doubt if any one of the 673 we own could be bought for the actual cash value as given, although some of the 741 three year olds might be dear at the average of \$63.81. That "old Dobbin" is not entirely scrapped in this county is proven by the fact that we have 6,488 work horses valued at \$82.13 each while 111 "range" horses are worth \$61.84. We don't know who admitted that they had a "plug" but it is a fact that under the head of "Ponies and Plugs" there is listed 2,038 animals and they carry an average price of \$34.39. The actual cash value of the stallions in this county is given at \$7,750 and we have 38 of them.

Baalam's historic animal is represented in this county in the improved form by 269 yearling mules worth \$40.61 each while the two and three year olds are worth respectively \$75.76 and \$96.83 and of them we have 253 of the first and 185 of the second. 1,160 work mules are valued at \$110.83 and their sires, morning song included, are priced at \$202.63 each for the 38. All above values are actual.

Gee, but this county would be in a bad way if called upon to all go out and have a real celebration for it is a matter of record that we would only have an average of \$25.00 each to spend. It is sworn to that we have only \$875,485 in banks subject to our order. It wouldn't hardly buy the gasoline for all of us to go to the state fair. In addition to that a few lucky or provident devils have some bonds, other than liberty bonds, and they are valued at \$72,380. Sorry we seemed a bit sarcastic in the above for we later learn that there are in the county 130 safes and of course most of the money is in them, safe from the too inquisitive eye of the tax shark. There is \$60,000 standing on open account in the county and if you fellows will get together and agree to do it we will sell it for you at the face value and that is certainly all you could expect.



Wouldn't it be fine to have every account in the county cleaned up? Let's get busy.

The elevator men get off easy for they claim that the amount of their holdings in the county to be but about \$60,000.

What do you know about it. We have in Clay County seven steamboats or water crafts and they are valued at an average of \$2.00 each. The gross tonnage of our fleet would not paralyze Lloyds but we are assured that it is a guaranteed blister maker.

Page John D. We have in this county 2,430 automobiles and their assessed value is \$177,871, making an average of \$73.19. There be those who claim this figure is too low but flivver owners predominate and many of them claim the assessment to be robbery. Personally we think it is, but the robbery is from the county. The next item on the abstract tickles us immensely for it proves to us that no man can be so accurate but that once in a long, long time he will make an error. Deputy County Clerk Perry don't make mistakes. In the nigh onto a half century that we have been his intimate we have never known him to be wrong except in the one instance when he selected democratic parentage, but here we find in bold Carter's best black ink the statement that in this county we harbor, some way we always seem to connect "harbor" with adjacent water, anyway he says we harbor 1,500 dogs and that their average assessed value is \$19.94 each.

It is only fitting that in the home county of the greatest incubator factory in the world there should be found 12,000 dozen hens, including of course the heurys too, and the actual value as given for assessment is \$10.00 per dozen. Pardon this Methodist sigh, but we cannot help but think of the day when a hen was worth 25 cents, no more, no less.

We have in this county 18,685 hogs and their assessed average is \$3.33 and of Wm. Goats and Baa Baa's we have 997 valued for assessment purposes at \$2.62 each.

The assessed values and quantity of various cereals and food products is as follows: Wheat, 121,992 bushels assessed at 39c; rye, 3,805 bushels at 21c; corn, 297,453 at 20c; oats, 160,587 at 12c; kaffir corn, 9,335 at 5c; barley, 11,378 at 22c; grass seeds, 155 at \$2.72; potatoes, 407 bushels at 48c.

There was reported over \$5,000 worth of typewriters. We know of one auburn haired typewriter whose employer is quoted as saying that he would not take a fortune for, but he probably did not make a return on her.

The assessed value of the railroad property in this county as certified by the state Board of Equalization is \$1,072,607 and the Pullman assessment is on \$2,790.

We have 254,511 acres of improved land and its actual value is given at \$25,915,165 while 106,400 acres of unimproved land is valued actually at \$10,544,555. Actual value of improvements is given at \$2,294,250. Our total taxable lands and improvements are valued at \$38,754,170 and consist of 360,911 acres. There are in the county 5,168 improved lots and their actual value is \$897,220 while there are 3,356 unimproved lots valued at \$267,735.

Clay County's total assessed valuation is \$11,352,639 so when you go away from home don't be ashamed to say that you came from Clay County for you live in one of the best counties in the world.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUTTON

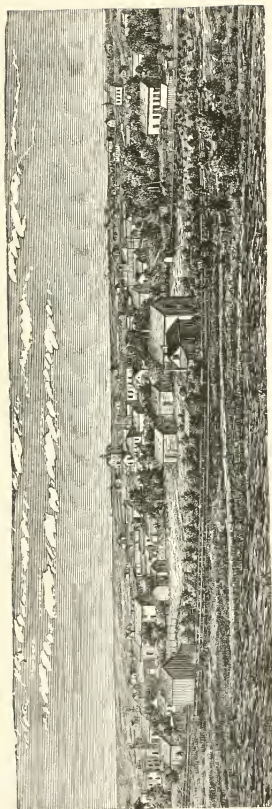
SUTTON—SKETCH OF SUTTON, BY R. G. BROWN—GRADUAL GROWTH, IN THE SEVENTIES  
—COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF SUTTON—BANKS—CITY GOVERNMENT—SCHOOL  
OFFICIALS—CHURCHES.

Sutton is the center of new associations. It borrows no propelling power from venerated antiquarianism since the spot where it now stands was but yesterday the prairie. Her first settlers were iron-souled men, who determined to hew out a town and build up a prosperous community. They had a mission which they performed, and so effectually done was the work that it appears to grow in solidity with the years and to be done for all time. Sutton is the oldest town in Clay County, the largest in point of population and business, and the lowest in elevation above sea level. Its early history is interesting in every particular and instructive in many.

It leaped within twenty-one months from a tract of wild prairie into a pretentious county seat, and within that time entered the lists against the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad legions. Throughout this war against a powerful corporation, the people conducted themselves with remarkable moderation, and justice won for once against oppression.

This victory became the theme of George W. Bemis, and in the fall of 1872, he sent the following poem, "Grafton to Sutton," to the M. S. S. Journal, then issued by the members of the I. O. G. T. Lodge, and published in the State Journal in 1873:

- "What a clanking of hammers and ringing of saws;  
How they sound through the valleys and ring in the draws;  
Oh, Sutton is growing, in the midst of the fray,  
With the city of Grafton only four miles away.  
"How the B. & M. engines shriek, whistle and squall,  
And send forth the order that Sutton must fall;  
How they thunder and mutter and groan night and day,  
With the city of Grafton only three miles away.  
"Then came Mr. Marthis, and thus he did say,  
'I am tired of Grafton; if only I may,  
I'll come down to Sutton, without delay.'  
Soon Grafton will be only two miles away.  
"Then started the wagons and horses and men,  
The steeds, how they foamed, as a whip now and then,  
Came down on their sides, near the close of the day,  
With the city of Grafton only one mile away.  
"Then rushed down the hill the black and the gray,



SUTTON ABOUT 1878



Closely followed the crowd to have sport on the way,  
And the shout that went up at the end of the fray,  
Said 'The city of Grafton is in Sutton today.' "

The town site, named after Sutton, Massachusetts, was entered as a homestead, March 14, 1870, by Luther French, a native of Painesville, Ohio. On June 5, that year, he located on Section 2, Township 7, Range 5, and, before the close of that month, finished the first house in old School Creek precinct, on the bank of the creek. Meantime he broke six acres of the prairie and showed evidences that the requirements of the homestead law would be fulfilled on his part, and surveyed the town site, August 10, 1871, into six hundred lots. He was followed by James C. Vroman, who located a soldier's homestead south of the French claim. Early in 1871, French put in four acres of wheat, which he threshed that fall by the treading-out process, and winnowed in the wind. The grain was hauled forty-eight miles to Milford, to be ground.

The Gray settlement was made May 4, 1871, by H. W. Gray, John M. Gray, G. W. Bemis, and W. Cuning and wife, the latter being the first white woman who settled near town. A few days later McTighe erected a board shanty between the homes of H. W. Gray and A. A. McCoy (as they stood in 1882), and opened the first business house, continuing there until the re-location near the railroad. Kearney & Kelly started a saloon, using a tent as store-house and P. H. Curran and Martin Higgins also established saloons. As the work of railroad building progressed the saloons moved west.

In June, 1871, Andrew Sherwood established his blacksmith shop in a sod-house, below Mr. French's dug-out. J. R. Maltby, of Crete, and William A. Way also came, and jumping Vroman's claim succeeded in getting it canceled and a title issued to themselves. The old Vroman claim they surveyed in February, 1873, as the first addition to the town of Sutton.

Thurlow Weed brought a carload of lumber from Lincoln to this point, August 23, 1871, and opened the first lumber yard. John M. Gray arrived with another carload on August 24, and started another yard.

A SKETCH OF SUTTON PREPARED FOR COURT HOUSE DEDICATION BY R. G. BROWN,  
GIVES A BIRDS-EYE PERSPECTIVE OF SUTTON'S GROWTH

Sutton was first known as School Creek. My visit here was in July, 1871.

At that time the B. & M. R. R. (now the Burlington), was being built. There was then three saloons and one little supply store, all in tents and depending mostly on the railroad graders for business. Luther French was the homesteader of the 80 acres afterwards laid out as the original town of Sutton, and was the first postmaster. James Vroman, a former soldier had a homestead on what is now the first addition to the town. He was very hard run, and had gone away to work for a few months. W. A. Way and J. T. Maltby, of Lincoln, learning of his absence, filed a contest against the land (jumped the land as it was called at that time). Vroman knowing nothing of this contest, failed to appear, and Way and Maltby secured the land.

The railroad was completed to School Creek about August 1, 1871, and small frame shacks soon took the place of tents, and a freight car was used as a depot for some time. At that time all depot ground and townsites along this road

were owned by the townsite company composed of officers of the road, and in the spring of 1872 the depot and station was removed from here to old Grafton, then four miles east of Sutton, and all trains passed through Sutton without stopping, except to stop for water, and all passengers and freight for Sutton was hauled from Grafton. This condition existed for sometime, until the owners of the townsite of Sutton conveyed to the townsite company one-half of all the lots in the original town and first addition. After the return of the station, Sutton began to improve rapidly and while it has never had what might be called a boom, its growth has been steady, and it has continued to be the largest town in the county.

October 14, 1871, Clay county was organized at an election held at the residence of Alexander Hamilton, three miles east of Harvard. At that election 54 votes were cast and Sutton was selected as the county seat of the county and all the county officers elected were residents of Sutton and vicinity. About November 1, 1871, I built a small room on Sanders Avenue, the first building to be built on this main street of the city and it was used as a court house until a small court house was built about 300 feet east. My deed for the lot on which my little office was built is recorded on page one, book one, deeds records of this county, the first deed recorded in this county.

The first business man of Sutton was P. McTighe, who kept a few groceries and supplies. The others followed in this order: Phillip Curran, saloon; Martin Higgins, saloon; Kelly & Kearney, saloon; Peck & Tracy, eating house, and small store; B. J. Grant of Lincoln, and H. W. and J. M. Gray, lumber yard; Coorey & Company, general store; Thompson & Young, agriculture, implements; C. M. Turner, general store; George Stewart & Co., general store; George Honey, furniture; M. Wittenburg, restaurant and then a general store; T. R. & W. R. Linton, livery stable; William Shirtly, hotel; Dr. M. V. Clark was the first doctor, followed soon after by Dr. M. W. Wilson. I was the first attorney, followed soon after by H. W. Gray, A. A. McCoy, J. S. Lehew, J. L. Lamont, G. W. Bemis and others.

The first school was taught by W. L. Weed, a private school, while Miss Lydia Tout was the first public school teacher.

There has been comparatively few business failures in Sutton, as most of them were and are today very conservative. The population today is largely retired farmers and mostly German with seven German churches, two American, and one Catholic church. Two school houses, one the fine high school costing \$50,000. The population of the city today is about 2,500 and the prospects for improvement and growth in the future will be slow. The city owns its water and electric light plant costing about \$65,000, much more than it should have cost. We are paying more for electric light than we paid under private ownership besides paying interest upon the bonds.

While it might not seem proper for me to speak of the removal of the county seat from Sutton to Clay Center, at the same time the real facts should be known, so that future generations should know the right. An election for the removal and re-location of the county seat had been called for, and Edgar, Fairfield, Harvard and Sutton were the candidates. The strong influence of the B. & M. R. R. (now the Burlington) was for Harvard and the people of Sutton were convinced that the time had come when they must lose the county

seat and owing to the treatment our town had received from the railroad, and they were very anxious that it should not go to Harvard, and to prevent this, a meeting was held and a small committee was named of which I was chairman, to look after the whole matter and see that Harvard did not get the coveted county seat.

We soon became convinced that unless another candidate was brought to the field, Harvard would win out. I went down and saw several of the people owning land near the center of the county, and not one of them would consent to lay out and plat a part of their land as candidate. For reasons easily understood, I did not desire to do it myself. O. P. Alexander of Fairfield, then sheriff of the county, was sent to Lincoln and directed to buy the 80 acres on which this new court house will stand. I then went to Harvard and took John Fleming, the county surveyor, down to lay out the future county seat. It was very cold and snow was badly drifted on the land. A few laths were stuck in the snow, and we returned to Harvard and that evening F. A. Pyle, of Sutton, made a rule plat just as I directed, and next morning I went to Harvard and had Mr. Fleming sign the plat, and then Mr. Alexander sign the dedication and filed it with the county clerk, and a new candidate, Clay Center was born.

There was much excitement in the two elections that followed, and the final struggle was between Harvard and our paper town, Clay Center. Hundreds, yes, almost thousands of fraudulent votes were cast, but Clay Center won out by a good majority. I have never regretted my part in the bringing of Clay Center into existence, as I believed it for the best interest of the people of the county, and I hope it may prosper, and the fine new court house here dedicated may become a temple of justice of which we may be very proud.

#### GRADUAL GROWTH

Referring back to the period of the seventies. Asa Tracy kept the first hotel and later conducted a store. Charles Calkins was similarly engaged here. Mr. Lynch's grocery was in the building occupied by Bagley & Bemis, in 1882. Thornton R. Linton established the first livery, September 20, 1871; and on October 14, an election held at Campbell's house, near Harvard, decided in favor of Sutton as the county seat.

The post office was established in June, 1871, with Luther French postmaster, whose coat-pocket was used as a post office. Rev. A. Burlingame, who was at one time a Methodist preacher, succeeded French, January 1, 1872, and on July 1, that year, the salary of the office was increased from twelve dollars to four hundred dollars. On July 1, 1873, it was created a money order office, and on the 7th, the first order, for \$10.50, was issued to Russell Merrill in favor of Burns, the Omaha merchant.

During the war between the town and the railroad, Postmaster General Cressell favored the claims of Sutton and forced the railroad company to deliver the mail at the office, which was just within the eighty rods limit. This was changed, and the train men were ordered not to stop at Sutton, thus compelling the mail agent to snatch the sack from the postmaster.

On August 19, 1872, Burlingame refused to so deliver the sacks, leaving them in the office. The railroad company introduced a war against the local

postmaster, who reported matters, and the company was compelled to carry the mail from Grafton to Sutton. T. R. Linton, the freighter, was hired to do this work, and performed it at one hundred dollars for three months, until the company grew tired of the expense and petitioned for leave to deliver at Sutton. This was granted, and a mail crane was erected opposite Gray's lumber yard, in the fall of 1872. Sometimes pranks would be indulged in, one of which was the hanging of a dead dog on the crane, which the mail caught at, supposing it to be a mail sack. The crane was cut down subsequently, and, by some railroad influence, a United States carrier was appointed, who served until the little war was ended and a depot established here. In March, 1877, A. C. Burlingame was appointed postmaster. A. C. Burlingame served after the death of his father until W. T. Stone was appointed postmaster by the Arthur administration. W. T. Keller came in 1887, and J. W. Johnson, appointed in vacation in the fall of 1889, and was confirmed as postmaster in 1890. Later, Jno. H. Tower served for a long term, Mrs. A. W. Clark as deputy, and for past six years Edw. P. Griess has served.

The railroad war dates back almost to August 12, 1871, when the first rail of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was placed within the township of Sutton. Shortly after Attorney Joseph Wilsey, of Crete, waited on French and induced him to give right of way on condition that a depot should be established at Sutton. This deed was not recorded until after his deed to the Clark brothers was filed, and so became worthless. The company, however, placed a freight car here to be used as a depot building. It was Number 124, and this number was painted on a bleached buffalo skull, which was suspended from a pole attached to one end of the car. On the town of Grafton being surveyed for the railroad company, this temporary depot was moved four and one-half miles east of Sutton, basing their action on the fact that Sutton was given up to saloons, and that the Vroman claim was still unsettled. This peculiar transfer was made December 15 and 16, 1871. The war was then commenced in earnest.

The Vroman title was settled, and in January, 1872, Mr. Weed was authorized to offer the railroad company one-half of Clark, Maltby & Way's addition and twenty acres of Maltby & Way's lands, on condition that the depot be re-established. Other steps were taken, but without avail, and not until April, 1873, did the people cease their efforts to obtain a depot. Meantime the merchants gave their freight to the St. Joe & Denver Railroad. Robbins & Marthis had removed their store from Grafton to Sutton in December, 1872, and the battle against the railroad company was virtually won. In May, 1873, it acceded to the terms proposed by the citizens, and in the fall of that year the depot was erected and R. M. Grimes appointed agent. He was succeeded by L. S. Sage.

A daughter was born to Mrs. F. A. Gross, February 15, 1872, being the first birth in Sutton. Maude, a daughter of Asa Tracy, died April 21, 1872, being the first death.

A colony from Southern Russia, near the port of Odessa, on the Black Sea, came to Sutton and settled in the town and adjacent country in the fall of 1873. The principal leaders of the colony were John Grosshans, Henry Griess





TWO VIEWS OF MAIN STREET, SUTTON



and Henry Hoffman. The whole number of families was fifty-five. They bought, in the aggregate, 16,120 acres of land, at an average cost of \$7 per acre, making \$112,840 that was paid the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Company and to the homesteaders for land. Their property in Sutton cost them \$18,000; their combined wealth in this county in 1882 was \$500,000.

Sutton, in July, 1873, comprised forty-one houses, nearly all devoted to business. The Times and Herald were published, two hotels were carried on, and the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad depot was built.

In 1871 there were only eleven houses in existence here, but before July, 1882, there were no less than 284 buildings in the town. During the first eleven years of Sutton's upbuilding (1871 to 1882) there were only five business failures recorded. The principal business buildings in 1882 comprised the two-story building, with Masonic Hall above, of I. N. Clark & Company; store building of Connor & Sheppard; the two-story building, with Odd Fellows Hall, of John Grosshans; the one-story building, Griess' hardware; one-story, of Weed & Company, and store, same size; old court house, two stories; new public school building, with projections each way, twenty-four foot posts, with a belfry and dome; two rooms below and a chapel, with all the modern conveniences of cloak and apparatus rooms.

During 1873, 2,483 tons of freight were received and 1,154 tons forwarded; during 1875, 4,239 tons were received, 5,255 tons forwarded; during 1875, 120,681 pounds of merchandise and 528 carloads of grain were shipped. The same year were received 1,389,716 pounds of merchandise; 414 barrels of salt; 94 barrels of lime; 54 barrels of coal oil; 101 barrels of apples; 11 carloads of emigrants' movables; 26 cars of corn for seed; 209 cars of lumber, and 183 cars of coal, etc.

In November, 1871, the Gray & Bemis nursery was established. The first directory was published in February, 1872, by Houston & Street, of Lincoln, the volume showing three dry goods and grocery houses, two flour and feed stores, one drug store, one hardware, two lumber yards, one hotel, one implement warehouse, one nursery, one livery, one fur and hide store, one meat market, two real estate offices, one physician's office, one attorney's office, and one shoemaker's shop. This latter concern was also the residence of the local preacher, for William Woolman was a sole and soul cobbler. The population in 1871 was 35.

On November 1, 1871, I. N. and Martin Clark opened the first store on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, west of Crete, at this point, having first purchased the unsold lots on the town-site from French, for \$4,000. They opened a hardware store February 20, 1872, having, ten days before, established a drug store. C. M. Turner erected his store-house November 17, 1871, and opened it for business December 9, while Corey & Company opened their store simultaneously; but the latter sold to Stewart & Evans prior to 1881, and returned to Crete. The business street was then known as Whisky Row. Merrill & Company opened a general store in January; Thompson & Young established their agricultural implement house; John I. Smith, a harness shop; Charles Meyer, a shoemaker's shop, and on Rev. Burlingame being appointed postmaster, he purchased Maltby's building. J. M. Gray erected a building south of the postoffice; the Calkins' and Jenkins' houses were erected, and

the Mines building (the first school house) was moved to the Gray lot. The establishment of the depot and of Maltby & Way's addition to the town tended to withdraw some interest from Sorghum, or East Sutton, and the town south of the track was called Scrabble Hill. The Fitzgerald building was the third erected on Scrabble Hill, the first having been erected by F. A. Gross late in the fall of 1872. In April W. A. Way moved to this point from Crete, and opened a hardware store in the Fitzgerald building, and shortly after the Kribbler furniture store was built and opened. This building was occupied by George Henry in 1881, and Weed & Company succeeded W. A. Way in 1874. In the fall of 1873 Way & Stewart erected the building which was subsequently occupied by Keller & Company and Merrill & Company, the latter commencing business in January, 1873, shipped the first carload of grain from Clay County, August 14, that year, the grain being raised on Russell Merrill's farm, on Section 20.

In March, 1873, Connor & Sheppard opened a grocery store, Mrs. M. V. Foote opened a millinery store, and Mrs. C. M. Church followed her example, August 10, 1873. About this time the Melvin Brothers opened their general store south of the track, and they, with Gross, Kribbler and Turner, were the pioneers of Scrabble Hill. A. B. Lucor built a two-story business house on Main Street early in 1873.

Grice & Towslee established their harness business February 25, 1875, succeeding John I. Smith, a very talkative character, who flourished in Sorghum's palmy days, and whose business card still remained all over the front of his former shop on Main Avenue.

On the same day, J. F. Evans & Company opened their lumber yard, succeeding Monnell, Lashley & Weed. F. W. Hohmann came from Lincoln, Nebraska, and opened a dry goods and grocery store, in June, 1874; he was a musician by profession.

John B. Eaton & Son built a grain warehouse February 1, 1874. The building was afterward sold to Eaton & Pyle, and later passed into the hands of F. A. Pyle & Company. Eaton & Pyle enlarged it to a horse-power elevator, having a storage capacity of 7,000 bushels, and a daily capacity of 1,000. J. F. Evans & Company (T. A. Margrave, manager) commenced the grain business in the fall of 1874. This company were extensive dealers, from the Mississippi River to Sutton. The daily capacity of their elevator at Sutton was 2,000 bushels. McKee & Robinson commenced the photograph business in the summer of 1873, McKee afterward succeeding. W. J. Keller & Company, druggists, commenced operations November 30, 1875, as successors to J. Thompson & Company.

Alcorn & Clyde began business in agricultural implements September 15, 1875, succeeding to Alcord & Colvard. J. E. Ryan, from Illinois, operated the first exclusive dry goods store in the county. May 19, 1876, Mrs. F. A. Gross opened a millinery store and dress-making establishment.

In the spring of 1876, B. B. Cronin commenced in the boot and shoe trade, the first of the kind in Sutton. The Sutton Brick Company (J. S. Lehw, superintendent; I. N. Clark, treasurer) commenced the successful manufacture of brick, June 1, 1876.

April 22, 1876, Sherwood & Torrey opened their meat market. Kreiger &

Ballzer were in this business before them, and had a shop just north of Gray's old lumber yard. Afterwards the shop was moved to Saunders Avenue. W. Cuning bought into the firm, and sold out again to Kreiger. Cuning was appointed deputy sheriff, which office he held for four years. Earlier he used to be a great man to drive work, and did most of the heavy hauling in the town. Later, Eugene Bemis succeeded to the business and had a dray built, the first one in the town.

The first builder in the town was Henry Potter, later of Spring Ranche. He built P. H. Curran's saloon, near the last of May, 1871. The first plastered building in Sutton was the county court house, built and plastered early in 1873. The masons came from Crete. Other tradesmen not before mentioned were A. A. Scott, Montgomery & Brother, Emery & Brother, and I. B. Terryll, builders; W. W. Jordan and Farris & Company, masons; Spencer & Company, William Smeltser and James MeVey, blacksmith; Daniel Cronin and F. J. Hoerger, carriage and wagon makers; Paul Braitsch, successor to J. D. Harris, jeweler; B. B. Cronin and George Karchar, shoemakers; Ramsey & Griffith, house and sign painters; John Nehf, harnessmaker; August Meyer, barber; William Ryan, P. H. Curran, and James Stewart, billiards.

#### COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS OF SUTTON

Among the prominent business concerns of Sutton, from the early nineties up to the present writing have been as follows:

J. N. Clark; L. H. Schaaf; New York Bargain House; M. Wittenberg; Corner Meat Market, Brehm & Baker; J. H. Clark Store; George Honey, furniture; Hoeger & Way, furniture; Toland & Nelson, drugs; W. J. Legg, jewelry; J. M. Gray, lumber; Flowers Feed Store; W. W. Weeden, implement; D. A. Schaftehenk, barber; Fred Hanke; Wm. Bauer, shoemaker; Thompson Brothers; A. W. Clark, ice; John Roberts Cash Store; Sam Carney, hardware; Occidental Market, Jas. Claus; A. H. Lewis, jewelry; Mrs. J. R. Rose, carpet weaver; F. E. Malins Department Store; Cash Clothing House, C. Lowenberg; J. A. Hanke, tailor; Dreyhorns Pharmacy; George Masterson, flour and feed; Oakland Hotel; Intestate Conservatory of Music, Mrs. M. T. Meyers, Miss Josephine Silver; Sutton Mercantile Company; J. S. Realsen & Aspengren; Schaaf & Rath; J. Bauer & Company; Sam Lange, flour and feed; Bender & Zimbelman, implements; Rath and Fleming, clothing; C. Schwartz, grocery; Sam Carney, hardware; E. F. Wright, jewelry; Theo. Griess, coal; J. H. Yost Lumber Company; A. C. Burlingame, Alex Bauer and Sons; S. N. Tucker & Company, clothing and shoes; Wm. Bauer, shoes; Sutton Clothing Company; Griess & Fleming; O. D. Gardners, grocery; H. L. Pheiffer, hardware; Carl Held, drugs; Robert Lich, drugs; Kuhnces Confectionery; Reilley's Millinery; H. C. Oschner, restaurant; Grosshans Brothers Lumber Company; J. C. McDonald, flour and feed; Electric Power Company; Nelson & Wilbers, livery; Sutton Garage and Machine Works; Bender & Nuss, auctioneers; Sutton Hospital; The Lyric (motion pictures). Robert Lich, drug store built up a well known trade in manufactured drugs and chemical preparations.

## SUTTON'S BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS IN 1921 WERE:

Basket Store No. 64	Lyman Elevator
J. J. Bauer, harness shop	Main Street Garage
George Becker, store	Nebraska-Iowa Grain Co.
Peter Becker, meat market	Nuemann & Kessler
Bender & Sons, implements	New Bakery
Henry Brehm, meat market	Nuss & Chalburg, real estate
Sam Carney, hardware store	C. N. Ochsner, pool hall
City Light & Power Co.	Ochsner & Nehlbias, clothing
City State Bank	Occidental Hotel
Cottage Hotel	J. C. Olinger, produce
Dr. D. W. Dulaigh	Dr. D. J. Pope, dentist
J. R. Easley Jewelry store	Rauseher & Sons, general Mdse.
A. Eckhardt, real estate	Henry Scheideman, meat market
Farmer's Co-Operative	Mrs. John Schmal, produce station
Farmer's Grain Co., elevator	J. B. Scott, law office
M. E. Fleming Coal Co.	Wm. Sheridan, garage
P. J. Germar, general mdse.	Conrad E. Yost, mill
H. O. Germar, confectionery	Standard Oil Company
George's Garage	Yost Auto Company, garage
Griess & Griess, dentists	Dr. J. G. Stone
Grosshans Lumber Co.	Sutton Clothing Company
Fred Hanke, tailor shop	Sutton Garage & Machine Works
H. M. Hanson, real estate	Sutton Hotel
Carl Held, drug store	Sutton Lumber Company
Honey Furniture & Carpet Company	Sutton News
Dr. Jesse L. Hull	Sutton State Bank
I. O. O. F. Lodge Hall	Dr. J. W. Thompson
Kelley Cafe	Dr. E. E. Trabert
Dr. H. W. Kellogg	Weber & Sons, mill
Knights of Columbus Hall	Henry Weidenbach, general Mdse.
Peter Kniss, cream station	Wenzlaff & Weston, hardware
Krebs, August C., lawyer	Wieland Bros., general Mdse.
Lilliedoll Brothers, drug store	Dr. M. P. Yocum, dentist
Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co.	

## BANKS

The pioneer bank of Sutton was established by L. L. Grimes and J. B. Dinsmore, January 1, 1877. They erected a brick building for an office in November. In 1879 or 1880, F. C. Matteson took the place of L. L. Grimes.

The Sutton Bank was founded in April, 1880, by L. D. Fowler and George H. Cowles.

The First National Bank, of Sutton, was opened in October, 1885, in the company's building just then completed. George H. Cowles was the first president of this house: J. N. Clark, vice-president; L. D. Fowler, cashier; George E. Birge and J. E. Bagley, directors. In the nineties, F. M. Rowley was President, M. L. Luebben, Cashier and Theo. Miller, Asst. Cashier, of this

bank. The sensational failure of this bank has been a landmark of no great pride in Clay County's financial history. After more than ten year's long fight, Cashier Luebben has served a considerable portion of his penalty for this crash and Attorney Thomas H. Matters in 1921, is still conducting a vigorous struggle to prevent serving the sentence imposed upon him by the United States Court.

The Sutton News in 1919 published the following resume of the evidence and legal contentions in this case, which serve to somewhat record its details.

United States Attorney T. S. Allen has received a copy of the opinion in the case of the United States vs. Thomas H. Matters.

Matters was convicted of aiding and abetting M. L. Leubben, president of the First National Bank of Sutton, Nebraska, is misapplying the moneys, funds and credit thereof with intent to injure and defraud the bank.

The statute under which he was convicted made it an offense to misapply moneys, funds and credits of the bank. Matters was charged with aiding and abetting Luebben in issuing and putting forth certificates of deposit without the payment of any money to the bank for them. The evidence showed that \$79,000.00 worth of these certificates were issued and that at the time of issuing same no money was paid. The certificates were turned over to Matters.

It was contended by the defendant's counsel that a certificate of deposit was neither moneys, funds or credits and that in issuing same no law had been violated. The court said:

"Much argument and citation of authority is contained in the brief of counsel for the defendant for the purpose of showing that certificates of deposit are not moneys, funds or credits. It is sufficient to say in answer to this contention that the defendant is not charged with aiding and abetting Luebben in misapplying certificates of deposit but moneys, funds and credits by using certificates of deposit as means and instruments whereby the moneys of the bank were misapplied. Luebben testified that no money or other consideration was received by the bank for the Johnson and Richardson certificates, and that they were paid by the bank when they were presented. If this does not present a case of misapplication of the moneys of the bank, it would be difficult to find one.

"Counsel for the defendant next contends that the trial court erred in not specifically stating to the jury that the issuing of certificates of deposit was a crime distinct from misapplying moneys. Conceding this question to be raised on the record it is sufficient to say that if there was anything made plain by the charge of the court it was this same distinction. The law was stated by the court and the different counts in the indictment were classified and just what each group of counts charged was stated. The confusion which counsel seems to think existed arose in our opinion from the fact that counsel construed the counts charging misapplication of moneys as charging misapplication of certificates of deposit. It is pointed out that Luebben testified that he had no intent to defraud the bank when he issued the certificates of deposit and we may add that the defendant no doubt if he had testified would have testified the same way, but such testimony would not determine the matter. The jury had a right and it was its duty to consider the overwhelming weight of the acts performed by Luebben and the defendant and thereby reach a just con-

clusion as to what the intent of the defendant and Luebben was. The question of intent was for the jury and there was abundant evidence to sustain its finding that the misapplication of the moneys of the bank as charged in the 16th and 17th counts was for the purpose of injuring and defrauding the bank. That was the legitimate and necessary result of the transaction."

There was a large number of assignments of errors which were disposed of by the opinion, the court holding that the defendant had a fair trial and that there was no error in the record.

The case was tried before Judge Martin J. Wade, United States district judge of Iowa, sitting at Omaha and Matters was sentenced to five years in the federal prison at Leavenworth. As soon as the mandate is received from the court of appeals Matters will be required to begin serving his sentence unless he appeals to the supreme court of the United States for a writ of certiorari, in which event the supreme court will examine the record to see if any error was committed.

The Sutton Board of Trade was organized February 14, 1887, with L. D. Fowler, president; F. M. Brown and F. C. Matteson, vice-presidents; I. N. Clark, treasurer; J. W. Johnson, correspondent; and Daniel S. Van Valkenburg, recorder. The officers then chosen were practically the officers of the board.

The Sutton National Bank continued to make a steady growth during the years, in 1900 the statements of Cashier P. F. Nuss, and directors, J. B. Dinsmore, J. C. Merrill and J. J. Bonekemper, showed deposits, loans and various items making up statement of liabilities and assets balancing \$163,293.15. By 1903 this had grown to \$192,396.37. This bank in 1910 reflected the splendid growth of the community of Sutton in its showing of deposits alone of \$373,920 and loans of \$312,500. The officers at that time were A. C. Adams, president; F. J. Hoerger, vice-president; John G. Greiss, cashier, and L. M. Mieling, assistant cashier and George H. Thomas the remaining director. The First National of Sutton at that time, with M. L. Luebben, president, George Honey, vice-president, Theo. Miller, cashier, and M. Leitner, Jr., assistant cashier, showed deposits of \$200,000 and loans of \$165,000. The officers of the Sutton National Bank in 1913, were Theo. Greiss, president, F. J. Hoerger, vice-president, John C. and H. C. Greiss, cashier and assistant cashier. In 1913, the identity of the Sutton National Bank passed away, the antics of the First National having evidently made the glamour of the state guaranty fund lend prestige to the title of the state bank, and the banking institutions of Sutton during the year 1913 became the State Bank of Sutton, with Frank W. Sloan, of Geneva, president; John G. Greiss, vice-president; James F. Burke, cashier and Henry C. Greiss, A. C. and the City State Bank of Sutton, with W. H. Wallace, president; S. W. Dunham, vice-president, and W. F. Greiss, cashier. E. R. Gurney became president of the City State, and in 1916 this bank showed deposits of \$120,000, while its rival, the State Bank of Sutton, showed \$300,000. In 1921, this bank, the City State, has as its officers, L. P. Sorenson, president; W. F. Greiss, vice-president; J. W. Knox, cashier and deposits in March of \$330,000 and loans of \$280,000. The Sutton State Bank has the same officers given in 1916, except R. M. Mecham, assistant cashier, and has deposits of \$530,000 and loans of \$415,000.



## CITY GOVERNMENT

The petition for the incorporation of Sutton was granted October 15, 1874. This petition was signed by William A. Way, Francis M. Brown, James J. Melvin, John C. Merrill and Dr. Martin V. B. Clark. In granting the petition the commissioners named them trustees, and they organized with F. M. Brown, president, R. G. Brown, clerk, F. M. Davis, treasurer, and I. D. Emery, marshal. In 1875 Messrs. Way, Merrill and Clark with Paul Braitsch and George Seward, formed the board. J. L. Le Hew was chosen clerk, Davis, treasurer, and W. Wilkinson, marshal. An election on the question of issuing \$5,000 ten per cent bonds to the Sutton Mill Company was held April 6, 1875.

1876—Trustees: F. A. Pyle, E. P. Church, J. W. Shirley, James Sheppard and I. N. Clark; chairman, E. P. Church; clerk, J. S. LeHew; treasurer, F. M. Davis; marshal, A. Brown. F. M. Davis resigned the office of treasurer and J. A. Tout was appointed, December 9, 1876, to fill the vacancy.

During the early part of the year a petition, signed by R. G. Brown and twenty others, was presented to the board of trustees, asking that they incorporate Sutton as a city of the second class. In response to this request of the citizens, ordinance Number 24 was passed by the board, whereby the town was incorporated as a city of the second class. An election was held and the following officers elected: Mayor, I. N. Clark; police judge,, J. R. Maltby; clerk, J. S. Le Hew; treasurer, J. A. Tout; marshal, C. F. Meyer; councilmen for the First Ward, J. S. Sheppard and W. E. Bemis; councilmen for the Second Ward, T. Weed and F. A. Pyle. This administration was characterized by general activity and improvement, since continued, making the town of Sutton the neat and attractive place it is now. Mayor Clark's address or message upon this occasion is worthy of a place herein and we had expected to include it had space permitted.

In compliance with the statutory enactment regulating such matters, the next election of city officers was held on the first Tuesday of April, 1878, at which time the following persons were chosen to the respective positions: Mayor, I. N. Clark; clerk, J. S. Le Hew; treasurer, L. R. Grimes; police judge, E. P. Burnett; marshal, C. A. Melvin; city engineer, Frank Conn; councilmen for the first ward, W. E. Bemis, for two years, and J. S. Sheppard, for one year; councilmen for the Second Ward, F. A. Pyle, for two years, and James Thompson, for one year. J. S. Le Hew was appointed police judge May 6, 1878, vice E. P. Burnett.

At the next regular election, in 1879, R. G. Brown was chosen mayor; police judge, J. Rowley; city clerk, A. L. Lamont; city treasurer, J. S. Le Hew; city marshal, R. H. Stewart; city engineer, F. A. Pyle; councilman for the First Ward, F. J. Hoerger; councilman for the Second Ward, James Thompson. A. L. Lamont resigned the office of city clerk, and A. A. McCoy was appointed August 30, 1879.

The winter of 1879 proved a period of misfortune to the flourishing young city of Sutton. During that time the Legislature passed a law requiring all places to have a population of 1,500 before they could be incorporated as cities of the second class. But Sutton, by all known methods of computation, could not raise her numbers to that point, by a few hundreds, and thus in the period

of youth "was cropped the golden plume of this proud young city." Accordingly, with the beginning of the next year, in abject humiliation, she was compelled to resume the less elegant garments of a village. The officers elected, in 1880, to take control of the village were as follows: Trustees, M. Wittenberg, C. W. Brown, James Thompson, George Honey and A. E. Meyer; chairman, A. E. Meyer; clerk, A. A. McCoy; treasurer, J. S. Le Hew. A. A. McCoy resigned the office of village clerk, January 4, 1881, and William F. Stone was appointed.

1881—Trustees, R. G. Merrill, M. V. B. Clark, F. A. Pyle, J. E. Bagley and Henry Grosshans; chairman, J. E. Bagley; clerk, W. F. Stone, treasurer, J. B. Dinsmore.

1882—Trustees, R. G. Merrill, F. J. Hoerger, F. M. Brown, W. W. Wieden and T. R. Linton; chairman, F. M. Brown; treasurer, J. B. Dinsmore; clerk, W. F. Stone.

The trustees of 1883 were F. M. Brown, W. D. Roberts, F. J. Hoerger, J. C. Merrill, W. W. Wieden; W. F. Stone, clerk, and J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer. In 1884 E. Landman took Mr. Stone's place, and F. C. Matteson that of Dinsmore. In 1885 Messrs. Merrill, Roberts, Hoerger and Matteson were still on the board, with Henry Nabel and A. Grosshans, new members; Richard Darsted, clerk, and F. C. Matteson, treasurer. In April, 1886, a city government was re-organized with A. O. Kendall, mayor; Theo Miller, clerk; T. Weed, police judge; J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer; Charles Newman, engineer; J. W. Shirley, C. W. Walther, F. C. Matteson and A. Grosshans, aldermen.

In 1887 Henry Grosshans was elected mayor, with the same police judge, clerk and treasurer; Frank Conn, engineer, and the same aldermen as in 1886. A village council also assumed control for a part of this year, but their claims were found untenable by the supreme court. The council comprised C. B. Gray, W. H. Thompson, A. Greenheid, George Honey, H. Jones and L. Jarrett.

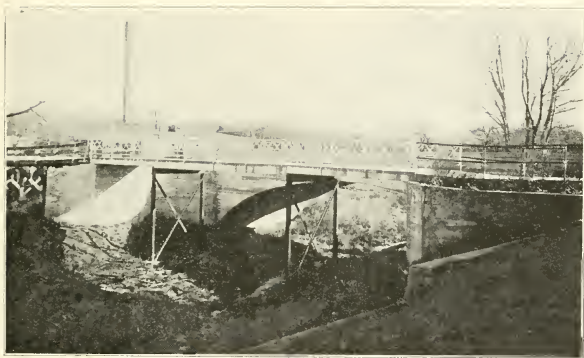
In 1888 F. C. Matteson was chosen mayor; F. M. Brown, police judge; Theodore Miller, clerk; John Ochsner, treasurer; F. Conn, engineer; Henry Nagel, P. H. Schwab, William Griess and E. W. Woodruff, councilmen. This council submitted the question of issuing \$20,000 bonds, the proceeds to be expended in the construction of a system of water works. The question was approved by a majority vote but, the legality of the bonds being questioned, the case was presented to the supreme court, with the result of placing a *quietus* on the work.

In 1889 the Peoples and Anti-License candidates were leaders in the contest for municipal honors. F. C. Matteson (P) received 174 votes and Charles Moon (A-L) 80 votes for mayor; H. M. Clark was elected clerk; J. J. Ochsner, treasurer; John Ling, engineer; M. Wittenberg and E. W. Woodruff were elected councilmen; Martin Clark and Theodore Miller, new members of the school board, with E. P. Burnett, R. S. Silver, Peter Griess and H. C. Brown old members.

The roster of early city officers of Sutton shows the following faithfuls:

TRUSTEES—1874:

F. M. Brown, chairman,	W. A. Way,
J. C. Merrill,	Dr. M. V. Clark,
J. J. Melvin,	F. M. Davis, treasurer,
J. A. Tout, clerk,	I. D. Emery, marshal.



BRIDGE AND POWER HOUSE, SUTTON



## TRUSTEES—1875

J. C. Merrill, chairman,  
 Dr. M. Clark,  
 W. A. Way,  
 J. S. Le Hew, clerk,  
 Paul Braitsch,  
 George Stewart,  
 F. M. Davis, treasurer,  
 William Wilkinson, marshal.

## TRUSTEES—1876

E. P. Church, chairman,  
 J. W. Shirley,  
 F. A. Pyle, J. S. Le Hew, clerk,  
 I. N. Clark, Jas. S. Shepard,  
 F. M. Davis, treasurer,  
 W. B. Jenkins, marshal.

## CITY OFFICERS—1877

I. N. Clark, mayor,  
 C. F. Meyer, marshal,  
 J. A. Tout, treasurer,  
 J. S. Le Hew, clerk,  
 J. R. Maltby, police judge.  
 J. S. Shepard, alderman first ward,  
 W. E. Bemis, alderman first ward,  
 T. Weed, alderman second ward,  
 F. A. Pyle, alderman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1878

I. N. Clark, mayor,  
 L. R. Grimes, treasurer,  
 C. A. Melvin, marshal,  
 E. P. Burnett, police judge,  
 J. S. Le Hew, clerk,  
 Frank Conn, engineer,  
 W. E. Bemis, alderman first ward,  
 J. S. Shepard, alderman first ward,  
 F. A. Pyle, alderman second ward,  
 Jas. Thompson, alderman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1879

R. G. Brown, mayor,  
 A. L. Lamont, clerk,  
 R. H. Stewart, marshal,  
 J. Rowley, police judge,  
 J. S. Le Hew, treasurer,  
 F. A. Pyle, engineer,  
 W. E. Bemis, alderman first ward,  
 F. J. Hoerger, alderman first ward,  
 F. A. Pyle, alderman, second ward,  
 Jas. Thompson, alderman second ward.

## TRUSTEES—1880

A. E. Meyer, chairman,  
 C. W. Brown,  
 George Honey,  
 A. A. McCoy, clerk,  
 Jas. Thompson,  
 M. Wittenberg,  
 J. S. Le Hew, treasurer.

## TRUSTEES—1881

J. E. Bagley, chairman,  
 F. A. Pyle,  
 H. Grosshans,  
 J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer,  
 R. G. Merrill,  
 M. Clark,  
 W. F. Stone, clerk.

## TRUSTEES—1882

F. M. Brown, chairman,  
 F. J. Hoerger,  
 W. W. Wieden,  
 J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer,  
 R. G. Merrill,  
 T. R. Linton,  
 W. F. Stone, clerk.

## TRUSTEES—1883

F. M. Brown, chairman,  
 William D. Roberts,  
 F. J. Hoerger,  
 J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer,  
 J. C. Merrill,  
 W. W. Wieden,  
 W. F. Stone, clerk.

## TRUSTEES—1884

F. M. Brown, chairman,  
 F. J. Hoerger,  
 W. W. Wieden,  
 F. C. Matteson, treasurer,  
 J. C. Merrill,  
 William D. Roberts,  
 E. Landman, clerk.

## TRUSTEES—1885

J. C. Merrill, chairman,  
 William D. Roberts,  
 Henry Nagel,  
 F. C. Matteson, Treasurer,  
 F. J. Hoerger,  
 A. Grosshans,  
 Richard Darusted, clerk.

## CITY OFFICERS—1886

A. O. Kendall, mayor,  
 T. Weed, police judge,  
 Theo. Miller, clerk,  
 Chas. Newman, engineer,  
 J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer,  
 J. W. Shirley, councilman first ward,  
 C. W. Walther, councilman first ward,  
 F. C. Matteson, councilman second ward,  
 A. Grosshans, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1887

Henry Grosshans, mayor,  
 J. B. Dinsmore, treasurer,  
 Theo. Miller, clerk,  
 Frank Conn, engineer,  
 T. Weed, police judge,  
 C. W. Walther, councilman first ward,  
 J. W. Shirley, councilman first ward,  
 F. C. Matteson, councilman second ward,  
 A. Grosshans, councilman second ward.

C. B. Gray, W. H. Thompson, A. Greenheid, George Honey, H. Jones, and L. Jarrett acted as councilmen for a part of this year, but were ousted by the supreme court.

## CITY OFFICERS—1888

F. C. Matteson, mayor,  
 F. M. Brown, police judge,  
 R. G. Brown, city attorney,  
 Theo. Miller, clerk,  
 John Ochsner, treasurer,  
 Frank Conn, engineer,  
 Henry Nagel, councilman first ward,  
 P. H. Schwab, councilman first ward,  
 Wm. Griess, councilman second ward,  
 E. W. Woodruff, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1889

F. C. Matteson, mayor,  
 J. J. Ochsner, treasurer,  
 R. G. Brown, city attorney,  
 H. M. Clark, clerk,  
 F. M. Brown, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 M. Wittenberg, councilman first ward,  
 Henry Nagel, councilman first ward,

E. W. Woodruff, councilman second ward,  
 Wm. Griess, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1890

F. C. Matteson, mayor,  
 J. J. Ochsner, treasurer,  
 E. E. Hairgrove, city attorney,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 B. F. McGill, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 M. Wittenberg, councilman first ward,  
 Henry Nagel, councilman first ward,  
 J. J. Bonekemper, councilman second ward,  
 E. W. Woodruff, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1891

E. W. Woodruff, mayor,  
 J. J. Ochsner, treasurer,  
 E. E. Hairgrove, city attorney,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 B. F. McGill, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 T. Speich, councilman first ward,  
 W. E. Bemis, councilman first ward,  
 J. J. Bonekemper, councilman second ward,  
 J. D. Dennis, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1892

Wm. Griess, mayor,  
 B. Eichler, treasurer,  
 E. E. Hairgrove, city attorney,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 W. E. Bemis, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 A. C. Burlingame, councilman first ward  
 T. Speich, councilman first ward,  
 N. Ochsner, councilman second ward,  
 J. D. Dennis, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1893

J. C. Merrill, mayor,  
 B. Eichler, treasurer,  
 L. P. Crouch, city attorney,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 W. E. Bemis, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 A. C. Burlingame, councilman first ward,

T. Speich, councilman first ward,  
 J. Bender, councilman second ward,  
 N. Ochsner, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1894

J. C. Merrill, mayor,  
 Andrew Grosshans, treasurer,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 F. M. Brown, police judge,  
 L. P. Crouch, city attorney,  
 T. Speich, councilman first ward,  
 A. C. Burlingame, councilman first  
 ward,

N. Ochsner, councilman second ward,  
 J. Bender, councilman second ward.

## CITY OFFICERS—1895

Wm. Griess, mayor,  
 Andrew Grosshans, treasurer,  
 F. B. Hawk, city attorney,  
 W. E. Thompson, clerk,  
 F. M. Brown, police judge,  
 A. A. Scott, engineer,  
 A. C. Burlingame, councilman first  
 ward,  
 A. E. Meyer, councilman first ward,  
 J. Bender, councilman second ward,  
 N. Ochsner, councilman second ward.

Failure to find the city records from 1896 to 1911 leaves herein unrecognized many faithful councilmen and city officials who served in that period.

Since 1911, the members of the Board of Trustees of Sutton have been:

1911—Jacob Bender, A. W. Clark, Esch, Miller, Pfeifer.

1912—Bender, Clark, Esch, Miller, Pfeifer.

1913—Bender, Clark, Esch, Miller and F. F. Grosshans.

1914—Wieland, Clark, Griess, Alex Bauer and Nuss. Carl Spielman succeeded Bauer who resigned during the year.

1915—W. J. Wieland, A. H. Lewis, Griess, Spielman and Nuss.

1916—Wieland, Lewis, J. M. Weber, Spielman and L. C. Griess.

1917—Wieland, Lewis, Weber, Spielman, and Schultz.

1918—Jacob Bender, O. W. Challberg, Lewis, Christian Roth and Schultz.

1919—A. W. Clark, Challberg, Weber, Roth and Held.

1920—J. B. Scott, H. M. Hanson, D. W. Dulaigh, J. M. Weber and Carl Held.

Since 1902 the clerks have been C. M. Brown, who served until 1920 and Theodore Spielman, who is at present clerk. H. W. Gray served as treasurer until 1919 when F. J. Grosshans took over the office.

## HOTELS

The first hotel was erected in February, 1872, by William Shirley, who settled here in December, 1871. The Central Hotel was built on the site in June, 1874, and the old building made an annex to it. Some years later the building became the dry goods house of M. Wittenberg.

The Clark House was built in the winter of 1871-72, for I. N. and Martin Clark, who carried on their hardware business therein until January 1, 1873, when Dudley Hoisington transformed it into a hotel. In August of that year E. P. Church became proprietor and carried on the house until November, 1881, when he moved to Harvard to take possession of the Metropolitan. The Clark House was later the billiard hall of George W. King.

The Occidental was erected by R. G. Brown in 1878, at a cost of \$4,500, and was opened by W. J. Abbott, who, after a six months' term was succeeded by J. T. Mollyneaux, as lessee. Mr. Mollyneaux bought the house in 1880, and

traded this house for the Oakland. The faithful old Occidental and new Sutton House in 1921 give the city's visitor good accommodations.

The Oakland House, built in 1886, by a stock company, was opened by George A. Blue, June 30, that year. C. W. Walthers and Crumley conducted the house for short terms. In August, 1888, F. M. Curtis took charge of the Oakland House, but conducted it only for some time, when Mr. Crumley returned as lessee and carried on business until Mr. Mollyneaux purchased the building.

The first school building in Sutton was a frame house, built by Owen Mines, which stood nearly between the residences of C. M. Turner and Mr. Rowe. It was sold at sheriff's sale to the Clark brothers to satisfy a lumber debt in favor of Weed; afterward rented to Thompson & Young; then sold to J. M. Gray & Company, for an office, which they occupied until 1882.

William Weed taught the first school in the town, and the second in the county, commencing about January 20, 1872, with an average attendance of fourteen. Another building was erected for school purposes in the fall of 1872, and stood on J. M. Gray's homestead, just outside of the town limits, on the east side. This building continued in use as a school house about two years, when it was sold to District No. 20, about six miles south of town, and was occupied by that district as a school house in 1882-83.

A large school building was erected in the spring of 1876. Besides this, the old court house was made use of to accommodate the schools, in which one of the primary departments was kept in later years. The school was graded by Prof. J. W. Johnson in the fall of 1876, and enrolled a total of two hundred and fifteen pupils, about one hundred and eighty of these being regular attendants in 1882, under the instruction of Prof. W. C. Picking, as principal; Laura E. Sawyer, assistant, and Nellie Henderson, Mattie Torry and Katie Conn, teachers of the primary departments.

In the winter of 1883-84, a course of study was adopted by the schools of Sutton, and arrangements made by which close connection with the State University was established. The Sutton school building was destroyed by fire January 21, 1886. The value of this building was placed at \$7,000. In June, 1886, the contract for building the new school house was awarded to J. L. Hutchinson, of York, for \$13,400. The series of bonds issued comprised twenty of \$500 each, and thirty \$15 interest coupons attached to meet the interest for fifteen years.

The school board of District No. 2 comprised John E. Bagley, John J. Bonekemper, Isaac N. Clark, H. C. Brown, Richard Darnsted and Joseph Grice. In November, 1886, Prof. Stephens presided over the high school, assisted by Miss Lake, Miss Merrill, Miss Constable, Miss Mollie Brown, Miss Clara Lake, and Mr. Eberhart, of the German classes.

In 1887, the names of Misses Clark, Lamont, Mallock and Braun appear on the list of teachers.

In June, 1888, Misses H. R. Brewer, S. L. Lake, Anna H. Merrill, Ethel D. Constable, Clara M. Lake, Janie Lamont, Lucy Roys, Mollie L. Braun and Mrs. Moore were the teachers.

Great credit is due to those who have sacrificed a vast amount of their time to the upbuilding of the schools of Sutton by their faithful service upon





CATHOLIC CHURCH, SUTTON



HIGH SCHOOL, SUTTON



Sutton School Board. Among those who have devoted long terms to this service have been: Sam Carney, who was serving in 1890, and remained on the Board until 1899, and came back in 1902 and served until 1907. R. G. Brown served in 1899, 1900 and 1901. H. C. Brown served from 1890 until 1893. The other members of the 1890 Board: Peter Griess was succeeded in 1891 by Joe Grice, who served until 1895; Merton Clark, succeeded in 1892 by F. J. Hoerger, who served until 1895; Theo Mellen, who served until 1894, and J. C. Merrill, who served until 1893. P. H. Schwab served from 1894 to 1897, and then Bauer succeeded him. W. H. Thompson succeeded Grice in 1895, and served until 1904. Tobias Spiech followed Hoerger in 1895, and he in turn was followed by Dr. J. M. Birkner for 1898-99, and in 1900 J. W. Thompson went on the Board for three years. Matteson served in 1894-1895, Bowers in 1897, and in 1898 Jacob Beck went on the Board and remained until 1903. John Roberts went on the Board in 1893 and remained three years. In 1897, A. C. Burlingame started a service that lasted until 1904. Schaaf served one year, 1900. In 1903, three new members started in—M. Figi, who served until 1909; Christian Rath, who served until 1914, and W. J. Rohl, who served three years then and again in 1909. Tooker served two years, in 1906-7, and Hanson started in 1908. Dr. Schultz started service in 1904 and served until Griess succeeded him in 1910. Hanke started in 1904 and served three years, and then Bauer served three years, and MacDonald in 1910. In 1911 the Board was Christian Rath, H. M. Hanson, John F. Bausch, A. E. Stocker, C. M. Griess and Henry Heinz, Sr. This same Board served in 1912; and four of them remained in 1913. M. Figi returned, and M. J. Weiland came on as new members. In 1914, Oscar Challberg, J. R. Easley and N. G. Bender came on, Heinz, Hanson and Figi remaining. These six served in 1915, and all in 1916 except Hanson, who gave way to Weber. In 1917, Grosshans and Greiss came on in place of Hienz and Challberg. In 1918, Figi, W. A. Weber, W. F. Griess, W. F. Grosshans remained, and Henry Heinz, Sr., returned and Henry Vauck came on, and in 1919, C. E. Weiland and Ferdinand Griess succeeded Bender and Easley. In 1920, H. Grosshans and E. E. Trabert succeeded Figi and Weber.

Sutton's splendid library has been in charge of a Library Board, at all times composed of many of her faithful public-spirited citizens. Among those who have served on this Board, three or more being appointed each year, usually for three-year terms of service, have been:

1911—M. L. Leubben, H. W. Gray, J. B. Frederick.

1912—Mrs. F. H. Hanke, Mrs. W. E. Bemis, Rev. L. Kunst.

1913—Miss Nellie Stevens, E. Clippinger, Alex Bauer.

1914—H. W. Gray (reappointed), H. H. Schultz, P. S. Kohler, Mrs. W. F. Hoerger.

1915—Mrs. Hanke (reappointed), Mrs. A. W. Clark, Mrs. Emma Yapple.

1916—S. A. Fischer, J. E. Opp, Mrs. Hoerger (reappointed).

1917—M. E. Fleming, Mrs. C. M. Brown, Mary E. Bemis.

1918—Mrs. A. W. Clark, Mrs. J. R. Easley, Mrs. M. J. McDermott.

1919—During this year a change in the statute changed the membership of Library Board from nine to five, and Mayor Clark appointed the new Board as follows: S. W. Dunham, term expiring 1920; M. E. Fleming to

serve until 1921; Mrs. W. E. Hoerger, to serve until 1922; Mrs. J. R. Easley, until 1923, and Mrs. J. S. Catterson, to serve until 1924, and in 1920, S. A. Fischer was appointed, vice Dunham.

#### CHURCHES

The First M. E. Church building (brick) was erected in 1882 and dedicated that year. The Sutton Class was organized in September, 1874, by A. J. Swartz, and within the eight succeeding years erected a brick church and parsonage at a cost of \$3,600. Mr. Ewell was preacher-in-charge at time of building. In June, 1871, a student from Toulon, Illinois, named Wm. Whitten, organized a class at Patrick Fitzgerald's house, near Sutton. In 1886 Rev. N. A. Martin was pastor, and in 1887-88 Mr. Randall was preacher-in-charge.

List of preachers who have served this church: C. L. Smith, A. J. Swartz, H. A. Ewell, H. Curtis, N. A. Martin, W. J. Barger, J. W. Royce, M. C. Brooks, Howard P. Young, F. W. Bean, John Calvert, C. E. Rueh, G. B. Warren, C. A. Norlin, C. M. McCorkle.

The first Catholic service was celebrated by Father Kelley in a tent, June 15, 1871, with eight members, most of whom were railroad men, building the roadbed of the Burlington & Missouri River Railway. Meetings were held at the house of M. McVey, in Sheridan precinct. Work began upon the erection of a church in the fall of 1878, and was completed in the following spring. The building was a large frame, 30x60 feet in dimensions, and cost, together with furniture, about \$2,000. The building first used by the congregation was a small frame, which was later removed, and was afterwards used as a county school house. The congregation had a membership of fifty-five families in 1882, and was under charge of Father J. Jenette, of Exeter.

The First Congregational Church building was the first house erected at Sutton, and in the county, for the purpose of worship. This building was erected in the fall of 1875, at a cost of \$1,500. T. Weed, E. P. Burnett, W. Cuning, F. A. Pyle and E. H. White constituting the building committee. The first services were held in the grove at Sutton in July, 1871, by Rev. Mr. Jones. May 26, 1872, Rev. O. W. Merrill, then superintendent of Home Missions for Nebraska, organized a church, with eight members—Thurlow Weed, Mrs. Thurlow Weed, C. Stevens, Mrs. C. Stevens, Thomas Milholland, Mrs. L. Kentner, Mrs. S. Corey and Mrs. C. M. Turner.

The first regular continuous services were conducted by Rev. D. B. Perry, afterwards president of Doane College. Following Mr. Perry came Revs. Chas. Hibbard, Reuben Gaylord (supply), John Gray, S. F. Emerson, C. F. Graves, Geo. Scott, E. H. Baker, Geo. Scott, H. B. Frey and F. C. Cochran.

The church clerks have been Thos. Milholland, E. H. White, Mrs. T. Weed, C. W. Walthus and Mrs. E. D. Goodrich.

This society organized at Spring Ranche, Fairfield and Harvard. For the north half Clay, Rev. John Gray, pastor; south half Clay, Rev. Thomas Pugh, pastor.

The Harvard Society built a church in 1882, and claimed over forty members at that time.

The German Reformed Church was established at Sutton in the fall of 1874 by immigrants from Russia. The preliminary meetings were held in Grosshans' Hall. The organization was effected by Rev. Dickerman, and the congregation had about twenty-five members. From Grosshans' Hall they removed to the Odd Fellows' Hall, where they remained until the regular church house was built in the fall of 1878. The building was frame, and was 30x60 feet in size. There were in 1882 about eighty-three families in the congregation and about 300 members, with the Rev. William Bonekempner as pastor.

Original members of congregation were: John Reuter, Jacob Rauscher, Michael Rauseher, John G. Nuss, being the first consistory. Members: John Grosshans, Christian Grosshans, Fred. Grosshans, August Grosshans, Wm. Grosshans, Peter Rauscher, John Griess, Henry Griess, Michael Griess, Henry M. Griess, Jacob Griess, George Serr, Henry Serr, M. Wieland, George Fuehrer, J. Ochsner, Ph. Eberhart, John Grossmann, Fred. Nuss, Christian Nuss.

The list of preachers who have served this church shows Rev. Wm. Bonekemper, from February 20, 1877, to November 8, 1908; Rev. L. H. Kunst, from February, 1909, to May, 1913; Rev. P. S. Kohler, from July, 1913, to November, 1916; Rev. R. Birk, from December, 1916, to present day.

A congregation was started by the German Congregationalists in November, 1880. The work of organizing was under the special charge of Rev. W. Sess, of Crete, assisted by the Rev. E. Jose and others. The church began with sixteen members, and the early services were held in the old court house and were conducted by Rev. Mr. Jose, who remained with the organization for a number of years. They had twenty members, and a Sunday-school was organized at the same time, with fifteen members. Mr. Bentz was the successor of Mr. Jose as pastor. This church has not flourished in recent years.

Sutton has had other denominations well represented.

The First Congregational in recent years federated, but has had a long record of service. The Evangelical Association, the Christian, the Catholic and Immanuel German Reformed churches have been represented in Sutton. Detailed information of the roster of pastors and workers of these churches has not been furnished upon request, and space forbids going into very great detail.

#### FRATERNAL ORDERS

Evening Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M., was organized under dispensation, December 22, 1873, with J. Arnot, master; M. W. Wilcox, S. W., and J. C. Merrill, J. W. The charter was granted June 28, 1874, to R. L. Gaw, J. B. Dinsmore, A. K. Marsh, C. L. Henny, F. M. Brown, J. C. Merrill, M. W. Wilcox, C. M. Turner, James Arnot, M. J. Hull, John M. Gray, I. N. Clark, W. D. Young, J. J. Melvin and M. V. B. Clark.

Lebanon Chapter, R. A. M., No. 14, Sutton, Nebraska, was created under dispensation from the Grand Chapter of Nebraska, December 21, 1875, by the following Masons: M. J. Hull, A. K. Marsh, W. W. Young, M. V. Wilcox, F. A. Pyle, J. C. Merrill, C. B. Crittenden, J. D. Berrin, H. R. Wheeler, G. H. Van Duyne and G. S. Harrington.

Sutton Lodge No. 53, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Grosshans' Hall, in Sutton, on the evening of November 15, 1874, by the Grand Master, Ira A. Gallup, assisted by brothers from Crete, York and Fairmont lodges. Charter members were W. A. Way, George Stewart, J. F. Evans, I. B. Tyrrell, E. P. Church and George Kreiger, all fifth degree members; Evans and Church, Past Grands. W. A. Way was elected N. G.; I. B. Tyrrell, V. G.; George Stewart, Secretary, and George Kreiger, Treasurer.

The Wildey Encampment, I. O. O. F., was organized in May, 1877. The charter members were J. W. Shirley, W. F. Keller, George Stewart, Fred Hoerger and Dr. A. O. Kendall.

The G. A. R. was established on April 28, 1879, with twenty members. The first meeting was held in the Odd Fellows' Hall. The officers elected at that time were: W. S. Randall, P. C.; J. C. Merrill, V. C.; A. K. Marsh, J. V. C.; Dr. M. V. B. Clark, surgeon; I. N. Clark, Q. M.; I. B. Tyrrell, Chaplain; E. H. White, Q. M. S.; W. T. McKnight, Adjutant; E. E. Howard, S. M. About two years after the society removed from the Odd Fellows' Hall into their armory. The organization was known as the George G. Meade Post, No. 19, and numbered forty-two members in 1882. The officers for that year were: C. W. Walther, P. C.; Dr. M. V. B. Clark, S. V. C.; C. Newman, J. V. C.; I. N. Clark, Q. M.; R. A. Hawley, Chaplain; R. H. Stewart, Adjutant; W. J. Keller, O. D.; Dr. M. V. B. Clark, surgeon.

Company B. First N. N. G., was organized November 15, 1878, with W. J. Keller, captain; J. S. Lehew, first lieutenant; George W. Bemis, second lieutenant. In 1882 Captain Keller was lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, and Lieutenant Lehew, judge advocate-general. In recognition of the company's drill and equipment, it was given the title "Governor's Guard." This was the first uniformed and equipped militia company in Nebraska. In 1880 the command aided in quelling the riot at the Omaha smelting works, and on March 8, 1882, was present during the graders' riot on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad at Omaha. In 1882 W. D. Young was captain; F. C. Matteson, first lieutenant; G. C. Roys, second lieutenant; J. H. Johnson, first sergeant. The company captain, W. J. Keller, was one of the most active members of this organization, as he was of the G. A. R.

Grove Lodge, No. 1477, K. of IL, was instituted at Sutton on the 19th day of March, 1879. The first officers elected were: W. J. Keller, D.; F. J. Hoerger, R.; J. W. Johnson, F. R.; E. H. White, Treasurer; J. T. Mollyneaux, P. D., and also representative of the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Honor. At the organization the lodge had a membership of twenty-two.

The Knights of Pythias on November 26 elected the following officers for 1890: J. E. Marsh, C. C.; W. J. Legg, V. C.; P. T. Walton, M. of F. and K. of R., and S. N. A. Tyler, P.; George Lereh, M. of A.; Dr. J. M. Borkner, M. of E. Although the Sutton Lodge has been crippled to some extent by so many of the members moving away, there has been a determination manifested on the part of the remaining members to build up the lodge, and they had the order in a prosperous and flourishing condition. John B. Scott, Jas. E. Marsh, H. M. Hanson, Alex Bauer, Jr., W. L. Bauer, F. Gueblfe and C. O. Brown have been C. C. of this lodge.

Rosa Division, No. 19, K. of P., was instituted October 3, 1887, by John

Morrison, G. C., and Col. H. Downs, First Regiment U. R., K. of P. The officers elected were L. N. Rosa, A. A. Callahan, J. T. Mollyneaux, Frank Conn, F. J. Hoerger and C. F. Knapp, holding positions in order of division rank.

The Grand Order of the Orient's Lodge was organized at Sutton, August 20, 1887, with J. T. Mollyneaux, G. O.; W. W. Stewart, V. G. O.; A. A. Callahan, G. H. P.; J. H. Beurman, G. V.; E. M. Clift, Secretary; Theo. Wentz, Treasurer, and C. F. Knapp, G. A. P., J. A. Davis was G. O. in 1888, and William Gold in August, 1889.

Many other lodges have been instituted and flourished in recent years in Sutton, among which should at least be mentioned Modern Woodmen of America, Rebekahs; Order of Eastern Star; A. O. U. W., P. E. O., and a number of remarkably efficient clubs—the Bay View Club, The Pennant Club, and a Chapter of D. A. R.

## CHAPTER VII.

### HARVARD

SKETCH OF HARVARD, BY GRIFFITH J. THOMAS—IN THE SEVENTIES—CITY GOVERNMENT—HARVARD SCHOOLS—LIBRARY BOARD—RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES—BANKS—STORES.

### HARVARD

GRIFFITH J. THOMAS—1918

Harvard and vicinity may well be termed the site of some of the parent settlements of Clay County, for here many of the pioneers pitched their tents and made some of the first material improvements. When the first settlers came to this old camping grounds of the tribes there was spread out before them one of nature's grandest panoramas—the prairie extending to the horizon in all directions.

In 1871 the townsite of Harvard was pre-empted by N. W. Brass, E. J. Stone, Bartholomew Mosher (or Moger) and G. W. Van Gilder, and patented to them in September of that year. A formal transfer of their title to the South Platte Land Co. was made shortly after, and the location surveyed. Within view of the surveyors were the statutory homes of the pre-emptors, built more to comply with the easy conditions of the rules of pre-emption than to shelter the pre-emptors. Before the prairie grasses were cut down by winter, the Burlington & Missouri Railroad depot was built, in February, 1872.

A postoffice was established at Harvard in December, 1871, with E. J. Stone as postmaster. The office was at first somewhat migratory, and its location depended largely upon the whereabouts of the postmaster, as he was accustomed to carry the mail in his plug hat. Stone held the position of postmaster until June 1, 1872, when he was succeeded by M. Estes, whose tenure lasted until January 29, 1877, when the commission was given to S. C. Sloat, who was succeeded by J. L. Wing under appointment by President Cleveland. Captain G. W. Martin succeeded Wing, entering upon his duties on November 5, 1889. Upon the second election of President Cleveland, G. A. Herzog was appointed postmaster and served four years, being succeeded by Griffith J. Thomas, under appointment by President William McKinley, and entering upon his duties February 16, 1898. He served continuously until August 15, 1915, when he was succeeded by G. A. Herzog, under appointment by President Woodrow Wilson (and Mr. Herzog is still serving in 1921).

The newspaper field has had various representatives. The Harvard Champion was the pioneer venture, established in 1872 by Julius Eaton, who removed the office at the close of the first year. The Harvard was issued in





POSTOFFICE AND WOODMAN HALL, HARVARD



BUSINESS BLOCK, HARVARD



the spring of 1873, by Webster Eaton, and continued publication for several months. The Harvard Advocate was established in January, 1874, by William Cornell. He continued in business for about two years and was succeeded in the enterprise of journalism by D. T. Sherman, who in the fall of 1876 established the Harvard Sentinel. Sherman remained in business for about two years, removing the plant to Sterling, Nebraska. Capt. G. W. Limbocker had already commenced the publication of the Clay County Journal and purchased the Sentinel subscription list. He continued publication until about 1893, when he leased the plant to G. L. Pike and W. S. Dexter and removed to Denver, Colorado. The new firm continued the publication for about a year, then released to Londermilch & Rice, who continued for a few months, when the plant was sold to J. S. Salisbury, a practical printer, but with no experience as an editor. After a few months of feeble existence, he sold the material and it was removed from the city.

The Harvard Courier was established by Southworth & Golvin, January 1, 1885. Later the management passed into the hands of S. W. Winstrom and Henry Stein, who in May, 1889, sold out to Griff J. Thomas, a former Wisconsin publisher. He continued publication until February, 1898, when he took into partnership his youngest son, Harrie G. Thomas, and under the firm name of G. J. & H. G. Thomas continued the publication until January 1, 1918, when they sold out to O. O. Buck, who is now in charge as editor, with the Harvard Printing Co. as owners. Under the Thomas management, the old hand press was supplanted by the latest in a power cylinder press; hand type-setting was done away with by the latest type of linotype, and the office and material placed upon the most modern basis of management.

The Harvard Free Lance had a brief but erratic career under the management of Fred Howard and Henry Stein during the year 1894.

The Harvard House, erected in 1872, was the first hotel. It was sold after completion to Ira F. Pearsall, who ultimately changed the name to the Commercial Hotel. The Goehring Hotel was next, but was afterwards moved away and turned into a saloon. The Metropolitan Hotel, erected in 1879, at the corner of Clay Avenue and Oak Street, by Jacob Goehring, is still standing, but has not been used as a hotel for many years. It is now the property of L. G. Hurd and is practically vacant. The Grand Central was erected in 1881 at the corner of Harvard Avenue and Oak Street for D. T. Phillips. It was used as a hotel for several years, but of late years has served as a rooming house only. In March, 1888, the Harvard Building Association was organized, with James Donnelly as president and seven others as subordinate officers and directors. It was resolved to erect a brick hotel building, to cost not less than \$9,000 and not over \$12,000, on the corner of Clay Avenue and Walnut Street. In May the contract for the building was let to Contractor Frick of Hastings for the sum of \$9,244. The house was completed in the fall, and the lease given to A. W. Raught, of Syracuse, N. Y., who for several years conducted a first-class house, enjoying excellent patronage. He was followed in turn by C. T. Bradley, H. M. Best, W. G. Willoughby and others; but the house has been for several years past under the management of W. W. Crabbe, later his widow, and at the present time by his daughter Florence, and is the only hotel in the place.

L. A. Payne & Co.'s Bank was established in 1878 by L. A. Payne and W. A. Farmer. Mr. Farmer died in 1880, and a reorganization was perfected as the Commercial Bank, with L. A. Payne, W. H. McBride and J. R. Penfield as proprietors. The Exchange Bank was established in 1881 by Edward Updike and L. J. Titus, which continued in business until 1889, when the Commercial and Exchange banks merged into the Union State Bank; with Edward Updike, president, and L. J. Titus, cashier. Messrs. Updike and Titus disposed of their interests here in the late '90's, removing, the first to Omaha and the latter to Holdrege. The Updikes, father and son, purchased the Titus interests, and they in turn sold later to Theodore Griess and George Thomas, who assumed charge as president and cashier, respectively, and they still "are on the job," with further interests in the Grand Island National Bank at Grand Island and in the Grand Island Loan & Trust Co. (having returned to Harvard in 1920).

The First National Bank was established in 1889, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000. T. H. Matters was the first president; C. Rockhill, vice-president, and J. F. Eller, cashier. This bank continued for several years and surrendered its charter and was reorganized as the Harvard State Bank, now doing a fine business in a substantial and conveniently arranged banking house of its own.

The Nebraska Mortgage Company was organized in November, 1889, with a capitalization of \$100,000. L. J. Titus was its president; N. D. Blackwell, vice-president; Edward Updike, treasurer, and George W. Updike, secretary. Upon the removal of L. J. Titus to Holdrege, the affairs of this corporation were also transferred there, and in a few years it went out of business.

Eight churches are located in the city—the Congregational, Methodist, Christian, Episcopal, Catholic, German, Evangelical, and German Reformed, while five miles northwest is a German Evangelical and seven miles southwest is a German Lutheran church. All are comfortably housed in modern edifices. At the present time the Congregational and Methodist societies are united under one organization as a savings proposition. The Episcopal Society has no settled pastor, but services are held occasionally.

The fraternities are represented by Harvard Lodge, No. 44, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, organized under dispensation March 25, 1873, chartered June 18, and instituted in October of the same year, remains a potent factor in the carrying on of the work and traditions of the ancient order. Harvard Lodge, No. 70, I. O. O. F., was organized October 18, 1878, is still working under its original charter and doing good in the community. Harvard Lodge, No. 83, of Knights of Pythias, organized July 9, 1887, maintains its organization, but does not hold regular meetings. Olive Branch Lodge, No. 16, Degree of Rebekah, I. O. O. F., was organized March 18, 1881, and has worked continuously since. Harvard Chapter, No. 70, Order of Eastern Star, composed of the wives, daughters, mothers and sisters of Master Masons and members of the Masonic Lodge, was instituted January 10, 1893, and is still in active service for the good of humanity. Richardson Post, No. 60, G. A. R., composed of veterans of the Civil War, was organized in 1880, and is yet in active service, with a membership of twenty-two. Richardson's Women's Relief Corps, No. 34, was organized in 1884, with

Kate Robertson as president. It remained active in all duties until July, 1896, when its charter was then revoked by the then department president, who later organized a new corps under the old number and the name of Lucius Fairchild. Richardson Corps, No. 2, was later organized and has done what it could do to keep green the memory of the men who saved the Union. Harvard Circle, No. 34, Ladies of the G. A. R., was organized in 1896 to help hold up the hands of the veterans, and still maintains its organization. A camp of the Sons of Veterans was organized in 1889, but because of lack of interest did not long survive. A new organization was perfected the latter part of July, this year, with prospects very flattering. A lodge of the A. O. U. W., No. 82, was organized in 1886, and continued in prosperous condition until high rates compelled a withdrawal of a large proportion of its membership, so that now, while the organization is kept up, the membership is very small. Harvard Lodge No. 55, Degree of Honor, A. O. U. W., was organized later, and is still in flourishing condition. The Modern Woodmen of America, Camp No. 516, was organized in 1888. In 1893 the camp planned for a home of its own, building the upper story of the building now occupied as the postoffice and furnishes it for its use and that of its auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors of America, Camp No. 114, which came into existence a few years later and is still active in the work of sustaining the objects and aims of the Modern Woodmen. At different times, the Red Ribbon Society, the I. O. G. T., and other like organizations have flourished here for a season, then permitted their lights to go out. The P. E. O.—a literary society, came into existence in the spring of 1893, and Chapter No. L held for several years a prominent place in the social and educational organizations of the place. It is still active, with a membership ranking high in work and worth.

The Harvard Board of Trade established in 1887, was followed by the Harvard Commercial Club, which after a short but uneventful life, passed into the discard. In 1910, a new organization was formed and named the Harvard Community Club, and it has proven a powerful incentive for the furthering of Harvard's civic activities. It has a long list of achievements to its credit, among which may be listed: The new Burlington Depot and its compact, handsome park; the park joining the Northwestern depot; the electrolier lighting system, put in by private subscription under the auspices of the Club; the Public Library, as finely built and equipped a library structure as there is in the state; the public park and pavilion, in which the annual Chautauquas are held and which is thoroughly enjoyed by the public—the park being ideally located, with a splendid growth of grass and shrubbery, is beautifully laid out and provided with walks, fountains and abundant shady resting places. The Community Club is also sponsor for political chautauquas, the first of which was held during the presidential election of 1912, and again in 1916, continuing for three days. Base ball, football and basket ball teams have had the unqualified support of the Club, with most satisfactory results. The Harvard Community Club Band is another child of the Club and the city has one of the best bands in the state. Community concerts are given every Thursday night at the Park Band Stand, and in the Pavilion, moving pictures are thrown upon the screen during the Band concert, all supported by the activities of the Club. It stands

behind every good work for the uplift of the Community and thus has proven itself a power.

Harvard feels justly proud of the Public School System and has contributed very liberally toward its development. A magnificent two-story and basement brick building accommodates the girls and boys of the grades and the High School, while five buildings in the country house the girls and boys living outside the city limits, who are in the confines of the city District No. 11. A very able force of teachers, twenty-three in number, is employed and the board of education insists upon it that these teachers give the youngsters the very best that is in them.

The city owns its water works system, obtaining its supply from two deep wells, with two auxiliary wells near by to fall back upon in case of failure of the main wells. The city is lighted by electricity, the plant of the Harvard Electric Company furnishing excellent service, day and night. This company also does the pumping for the water system.

Three elevators handle the large quantity of grain brought here for shipment. There are two well managed banks, with combined resources of nearly a million dollars, two lumber and coal yards, and in addition two concerns that handle coal, two blacksmith shops, two restaurants, while nearly every line of business is represented by alert, and aggressive trade-getters. In the printing business the Harvard Courier has the field to itself, while the professions are represented by six physicians, two dentists, two lawyers, the clergy, twenty-three school teachers, several music teachers, and private instructors in the arts and sciences. The telephone needs of the city and country are supplied by the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co.

Since the Declaration of War between the United States and Germany, ninety-eight young men, claiming Harvard as their home town, have gone to join the colors, several of whom have reached "over there." In this connection it is only fair to mention Harvard's chapter of the American Red Cross, an organization comprised of nearly all the good women of the community, who have accomplished much and are still accomplishing much for "the boys" and their dependents. The Home Fire Club, a branch of the Red Cross, is also doing a good work in giving receptions to the boys and affording cheer and comfort to those whom they leave at home.

Harvard is governed as a city of the third class, with a mayor and four councilmen. It believes that in the cleanliness of its municipal life, the excellence of its schools and churches, and the business and social opportunities offered, it has assets that appeal strongly to all people who desire to make a home for themselves and their children.

GRIFFITH J. THOMAS.

#### IN THE SEVENTIES

The railroad depot at Harvard was established here in the fall of 1871. A Mr. Harney served as agent for about eight years. J. J. Cox, T. J. Cox, Gates and Sharp followed in succession and then came A. A. Armitage. C. G. Wing is the present agent.

In the fall of 1888 there resided at or near Harvard the following named voters of 1836-40. W. H. Hammond, Charles Church, Erastus Austin, Joseph Megrue, Wm. Mercer, Silas Moore, V. L. Carr, Geo. W. Brown and Andrew Kennedy.

The petition of E. H. Birdsall and others praying that Harvard be declared an incorporated town was granted July 1, 1873. E. P. Burnett, E. H. Birdsall, W. A. Farmer, G. W. Howard, and J. D. Bain were named as trustees.

At a meeting of the board July 19, 1873, E. H. Birdsall was chosen chairman; E. P. Burnett, clerk; William Mulliken, treasurer; W. F. Gue, assessor; C. W. Gardner, marshal, and S. M. Risley, pound master. E. P. Davidson was later appointed pound master.

The following shows the names of those who have held official position in the village government since its incorporation up to the present time, with the date of service: 1873—Trustees, E. H. Birdsall, chairman; E. P. Burnett, clerk; J. D. Bain, W. A. Farmer, G. W. Howard, (succeeded by B. F. Haviland), treasurer, William Mulliken; marshal, C. W. Gardner; assessor, W. F. Gue; pound master, S. M. Risley, (succeeded by Mr. Davison.)

#### CITY GOVERNMENT

1874—Trustees, W. H. Hammond, chairman; W. A. Mulliken, C. W. Gardner, E. P. Burnett; clerk, W. R. Mulliken; treasurer, J. F. Sawtell; assessor, C. K. Morrill (succeeded by E. C. Morse); pound master, E. P. Davison; marshal, L. Webster (succeeded by Joe Spotts). W. A. Farmer was elected as the fifth member of the board.

1875—Trustees, W. H. Hammond, chairman; M. Estes, L. Stein, C. D. Moore, T. J. Dowd; clerk, T. J. Dowd (succeeded by O. W. Birmingham); marshal, Joe Spotts; assessor, E. C. Morse. T. A. Barbour was appointed treasurer June 9, and W. A. Farmer was appointed attorney. T. A. Barbour was appointed assessor in place of E. C. Morse, who moved away.

1876—Trustees, M. Estes, chairman; M. D. Kellogg, C. D. Moore, L. Stein and G. W. Howard; clerk, G. W. Howard; treasurer, W. H. Hammond (succeeded by C. D. Moore); marshal, Joseph Spotts; assessor, T. A. Barbour.

1877—Trustees, T. A. Barbour, chairman; C. D. Moore, P. M. Culvard, L. C. Howard; clerk, L. G. Hurd; treasurer, H. R. Wheeler; marshal, Joseph Spotts.

1878—Trustees, E. J. Moger, chairman; W. J. Turner, A. D. Davidson and W. H. Disbrow; clerk, L. G. Hurd; marshal, Joseph Spotts.

1879—It was this year that the organization of a city of the second class took place, with the following officers: Mayor, W. J. Turner; clerk, T. R. Hall (succeeded by L. A. Varner); treasurer, L. A. Payne; police judge, T. A. Barbour (succeeded by D. T. Phillips); engineer, J. T. Fleming; councilmen of the First Ward, W. H. Hammond and Ezra Brown; councilmen of the Second Ward, C. J. Scott and P. B. Lyons.

1880—After the existence as a city of the second class, and the place again became a village the following officers were elected: Trustees, W. J. Turner, chairman; Ezra Brown, H. G. Starkey, H. R. Wheeler and J. A. Swope; clerk, I. B. Littler; treasurer, L. A. Payne; attorney, L. A. Varner; marshal, C. W.

Gardner (succeeded by Joseph Spotts). William Gallup held the position of night patrolman.

1881—Trustees, W. T. Perry, chairman; L. G. Hurd, B. C. Oyler; attorney, L. A. Varner; clerk, F. W. Burdick; treasurer, L. A. Payne.

On August 1, 1878, the board of trustees of the town of Harvard petitioned for the correction of the act of incorporation and in accordance with their prayer the correction was made, showing that the former act was made on petition of a majority of taxable male inhabitants thereof. A petition by John D. Hayes and one hundred ninety-eight other taxpayers of Harvard precinct, asking the commissioners to fix a date for voting on the following proposition, was presented December 16, 1878: "Shall the commissioners of Clay County issue bonds of Howard Precinct to the amount of \$5,000 to be placed in the hands of E. P. Burnett, W. S. Randall and E. E. Howard, officers of the county, as trustees, to be delivered to the commissioners of Clay County, in the event of the location of the county seat at Harvard, proceeds to be devoted to the erection of county buildings at Harvard within six months of re-location of seat of justice." This petition was granted and a date made for election.

In April, 1882, J. D. Bain, B. C. Oyler, L. A. Payne, C. D. Moore and C. W. Gardner were nominated for village trustees. L. A. Varner was chosen clerk and W. H. Canfield, treasurer.

T. R. Wyckoff, John Hill, William Newton, Louis Stein (the two last vice J. E. Wheeler and M. Estes), were chosen members of the school board in 1882. In 1883 Louis Stein was re-elected, and W. H. Canfield took the place of Ezra Brown on the board. H. C. Brown was chosen moderator of the new board.

The trustees of Harvard elected in 1883 were Messrs. Payne, Bain and Gardner, of the old board, with S. S. Dunn and L. J. Titus. William Shackelford was appointed marshal.

In 1884, the anti-license candidates for village trustees received from 100 to 112 votes, and the license candidates from 45 to 52. C. H. De Groff received 152 votes, being nominated by both parties.

The trustees elected were C. D. Moore, L. J. Titus, J. D. Bain, D. H. De Groff and C. J. Scott. C. K. Morrill was chosen clerk; W. H. Canfield, treasurer; S. M. Risley, marshal and M. Estes, superintendent of cemetery.

The village elections of 1885 were mainly carried by the Citizens party. L. A. Payne, B. S. Harrington, Ezra Brown, John Morrow and Melvin Estes were elected trustees.

In April, 1885, L. T. Clark and A. P. Hess were elected members of the school board, vice John Hill and T. R. Wyckoff.

In 1886 M. W. Wilcox was elected mayor; L. P. Crouch, police judge; S. W. Wistrom, clerk; L. J. Titus, treasurer; H. S. Freeman, engineer; M. V. Corey, G. W. Gardner, C. Rockhill and R. Donnelly, aldermen. The vote cast for license was 69; against license, 143. The Citizens ticket was beaten.

In April, 1887, G. W. Limbocker was chosen mayor; G. W. Updike, treasurer; G. D. Webster, clerk; John T. Fleming, engineer; T. H. Bennett, and B. R. Sloat, aldermen.

In April, 1888, G. W. Updike was elected mayor by 117 votes against 92 votes for James Donnelly; I. R. Littler, treasurer; W. H. Payne, clerk; Ezra



Brown, police judge; J. T. Fleming, engineer; G. A. Herzog and M. V. Corey, councilmen, with aldermen Sloat and Bennett holding over.

In April, 1889, James Donnelly was elected mayor; John T. Fleming, clerk; L. J. Titus, treasurer; G. W. Limbocker, engineer; B. S. Harrington and Samuel Martin, councilmen; L. G. Hurd was appointed attorney; Dr. Rose, physician; J. F. Hickman, marshal; O. C. Clark, member of the board of health; J. A. Rupiper, superintendent of cemetery; J. R. Corey, weighmaster, and C. D. Moore, foreman of fire company; L. J. Titus, J. L. Misner, I. L. Yoeman and H. E. Belding were elected members of the board of education. A vote on choice of postmaster shows 153 for G. W. Martin, 102 for O. W. Birmingham, 73 for S. C. Sloat and 25 for G. L. Pike.

#### HARVARD CITY COUNCIL

The officials of Harvard for the year 1890 were, Mayor Titus with Aldermen B. S. Harrington, B. R. Sloat, D. J. Riley and Martin; J. R. Hume as City Clerk and W. J. Turner, Treasurer. In 1891, Mayor L. J. Titus remained at the helm, with Councilmen Sloat and Riley and new members were G. A. Herzog and I. R. Littler. Henry O. Freeman became city clerk and Edward Updike, treasurer. The following year, 1892, the official roster remained the same except J. S. Catterson succeeded D. J. Riley as councilman. 1893 brought in a new administration with I. R. Littler as mayor, J. A. Rupiper, C. C. Hurd as councilmen with Sloat and Catterson. L. B. Menger took the city clerkship for awhile and then Griff J. Thomas; Thomas Lanham began a service as treasurer. In 1894, Mayor Littler continued at the helm with Jerry Delaney and S. P. Rosenbaum as new councilmen, Rupiper and Hurd holding over and Edward F. King as city clerk. In 1895, Rosenbaum and Delaney stayed on the council with a new bunch of associates, George W. Martin, mayor, Wm. T. Flynn and Seneca Wing as councilmen, C. K. Morrill as clerk and J. H. Webster as treasurer. Ezra Brown succeeded G. W. Limbocker as police judge and began a service of office that lasted for eight years. In 1896, J. R. Shreck became mayor, and the councilmen were Lanham and Wing, L. G. Kimpster and George W. Fell. In 1897, Shreck remained mayor, I. R. Littler came on the council succeeding E. F. King. Fell and Kempster remained over, with A. Moger as remaining member. G. T. Fleming became city clerk. In 1898, G. A. Herzog took up the duties of mayor, Littler and Moger remained as councilmen with John Richards and J. D. Bain as their associates, Fleming remained city clerk and G. W. Martin became treasurer. In 1899 and 1900 this same group of efficient officers remained together at the helm of city government. In 1901, Herzog continued as mayor, Fred Haseloh and Hartley came on the council and W. H. Swartz became treasurer. In 1902, J. H. Yost became mayor, Bain, Haseloh and Hartley remained on the Council with Schwenck as new member. In 1903, G. A. Herzog again became mayor, and the new councilmen were G. W. Phillips and C. E. Gaddis. In 1904, the same mayor and council remained in the harness with M. R. Chileote as treasurer. In 1905 one change took place, L. A. Higgins succeeding Gaddis on the council. In 1906, Mayor Higgins remained at the helm with Phillips and Bain on the council with William Schwenck and Harrie G. Thomas as the other members.

In 1907, the only change was Theo. Griess succeeding Bain. W. H. Swartz became city clerk and F. Kuenneth, treasurer. The same crew remained at the helm in 1908. In 1909, change brought Henry Kitzinger on the council vice Phillips and J. G. Pace became city clerk. In 1910, Mayor Higgins gave way to G. W. Phillips, and Councilman Thomas to William T. Ayton. J. T. Fleming was city clerk and George H. Thomas, city treasurer. Ezra Brown, who had returned to the police judgeship after one year in which Paul Boslaugh held the post, was serving about his fifteenth year therein. In 1911, George H. Thomas became mayor, with Schwenck, Ayton, J. W. Turner and Griess as councilmen, Fleming remaining as city clerk and T. A. Blakeslee became city treasurer. In 1912, the only change was L. A. Higgins becoming city clerk. In 1913, two changes came about, F. R. O'Neill succeeded Griess on the council and H. G. Wellensick became treasurer. In 1914, Thomas was still mayor and Emil Bauer succeeded Turner on the council, and later in the year H. R. Tillotson succeeded O'Neill. In 1915, G. W. Phillips succeeded Bauer, who resigned from the council. In 1916, William Schwenck succeeded Thomas as mayor, Lewis A. Robertson came on the council vice Phillips, and Myron W. Bradley became city clerk and Carl H. Worley, city treasurer. L. A. Higgins returned to the council in 1917, and in 1918, A. S. Megrue came on the council with C. J. Eller, vice Robertson and Ayton. In 1919, Thomas A. Siefken, who had served a few months on the council vice Megrue, became mayor, with Eller and Higgins still on the council and Dr. A. J. Dixon and Dr. J. E. Ingram as the other members, and in 1920, George W. Phillips became mayor, with Dixon, Ingram as councilmen and H. R. Tillotson, and Schwenck later served on the council succeeding Ingram. R. F. Englehardt became city clerk and John R. Simpson, city treasurer.

#### HARVARD SCHOOLS

The first school was opened in the winter of 1872-73 by Mrs. C. K. Morrill, at her house, and was attended by thirty-nine pupils. During that winter the contract for building a school house was let to Peek & Meston, who completed the house early in the summer of 1873 for the contract price, \$5,000, this sum being raised on bonds voted by the district. The district was organized in July, 1872, with E. J. Mosher, Alex. Meston and M. L. Latham, directors or trustees.

Some years later the number of members was increased to six, and in 1881 H. C. Brown, M. Estes, Ezra Brown, E. J. Stone, T. R. Wyckoff and William Newton formed the board. F. L. Foreman was then principal, with Ella McBride, L. A. Varner and Clara Geary, teachers. District 11, at this time, claimed 471 school children and employed eight teachers.

On June 4, 1881, the school board for Harvard met at the office of H. C. Brown, moderator, M. Estes, treasurer, and J. E. Wheeler, treasurer, and T. R. Wyckoff and M. E. Stone as trustees. In December, 1881, those members serving were H. C. Brown, Estes, Wyckoff, Stone, Ezra Brown and Wheeler. The board in 1882 were Estes, Ezra Brown, H. C. Brown, Wm. Newton and T. R. Wyckoff. In March, 1882, M. Estes, treasurer, resigned, and C. A. Payne was appointed to fill the vacancy. The school officers in 1883 were H. C. Brown, L. Stein, W. H. Canfield, W. Newton and J. Hill. Professor Mercer appeared before the board



HIGH SCHOOL, HARVARD



in September, 1883, and recommended that the schools be graded. In April, 1884, the officers elected were, W. H. Canfield, director, B. R. Sloat, moderator, L. Stein, treasurer, W. Newton, secretary, and Canfield and Wyckoff, trustees. In 1885, these same trustees served together. Hess and Allen came on the board later in 1885. In 1886, Hendreskee became a member, and in January, 1887, the members were Newton, Stein, Titus, Allen and Hendreskee. In May, 1887, the board serving were, T. A. Barbour, Robert Hendreskee, Mrs. L. A. Noyes, J. E. Wheeler, William Newton, moderator, and Louis Stein, treasurer. The board in 1887 elected A. O. Storm as superintendent and principal at a salary of \$1,000, and the pay of other teachers ran from \$40 to \$50 per month. This is indicative of course, of the status reached by the schools of other Clay County towns at this early date. Scott and Evans were new members who came on the board late in 1887, and served with Titus, Barbour, Hendreskee and Wheeler. In 1888, Yoeman and Belden became new members, and L. J. Titus was serving as secretary. In 1889, George Evans, T. A. Barbour, I. L. Yoeman, H. E. Belden, L. J. Titus and J. L. Misner, were the members. The same members served through 1890 and in 1891, except that O. W. Birmingham succeeded T. A. Barbour. In 1892, John Robertson and P. C. Dayton came on the board, and in January, 1893, the board who were serving were, L. J. Titus, George Evans, P. C. Dayton, G. J. Thomas, John Robertson and T. R. Wyckoff. In the latter part of 1893 the membership included Robertson, Wyckoff, Thomas, Dayton and Evans and B. R. Sloat. In 1894, Sloat, Thomas and Dayton held over to serve with S. B. McBride, M. S. Hartman and William Newton. Superintendent Mills was heading the schools of the city. In 1895, W. A. King and C. W. Gardner were serving in the places of Sloat and Dayton. In 1896 the same board were serving, and in 1897, J. E. Nisley had succeeded McBride. The next election brought on J. F. Eller and H. E. Belden to serve with King, Nisely, Gardner and Newton. In 1898, the same faithful sextette served and again in 1899 and 1900, a loyal crew stayed with the task. S. P. Arndt resigned as superintendent of the Harvard schools in September, 1900, after service of four years. W. B. Backus was elected to succeed him. L. O. Aker came on the board to succeed King, who had removed, and in 1901, Nisely, Aker, Eller and Belden continued to serve with Conrad Pauley and A. J. Moger as the new members. In 1902, this same loyal sextette with superintendent Backus, guided the schools of Harvard, and in 1903, the same six stayed on with the task, and continued further to serve together in 1904. D. D. Miles was elected superintendent and Miss Edith A. Lathrop, principal. Robert Hendreskee returned for another period of service in 1904, vice Aker. In 1905, this new sextette served a year longer at the helm. In 1906, they all continued except Hendreskee, who gave way to Alfred Ericksen, with R. V. Clark as superintendent and Virginia McGrew as principal. In 1907, Moger, Belden, Nisely, Pauley, Eller and Ericksen continued to serve together, and for another year, in 1908, and in 1909, four remained, with Eller and Pauley leaving and Dr. A. J. Jenison and C. W. Brehm coming on. R. V. Clark was still superintendent in 1910 with a somewhat changed board, then consisting of J. S. Whisenand, Carl Florine and P. Hein, the holdovers being Brehm, Nisely and Belden. A special election was called for May 31, 1910, to vote on the issuance of \$20,000 bonds to erect an addition to the then High

School. In 1911, Dan Dunleavey succeeded Nisely, Frank Selko succeeded Brehm and Fred Kochrow took the balance of the term of Carl Florine, who resigned. Hein, Belden and Whisenand remained on the board. The board remained the same in 1912 except that Megrue took the place of Hein. Lela Olmstead was High School principal, with R. V. Clark still serving as superintendent. In 1913, Higgins became a member, vice Kochrow. R. V. Clark had become superintendent of Boys Industrial Home for the State at Kearney, which position he still holds in 1920. Jasper L. McBrien, an ex-State superintendent of public instruction served the Harvard schools as superintendent for a time in 1912 and resigned October 6, 1913. In 1914, Loy J. Gilkeson, in 1920, county superintendent for Clay County, took charge of the Harvard schools, with Guy Mickle as principal. The board serving in 1914 were J. S. Whisenand, A. Z. Megrue, H. E. Belden, L. A. Higgins, Conrad Miller and L. H. Yost. In 1916, J. S. Whisenand was president, Wm. Wendt, vice-president, F. C. Hoffman, secretary, L. A. Higgins, L. H. Yost and Conrad Miller the remaining members. In 1916, Wellensiek and C. C. Krug became members. In 1917, Wing succeeded Miller and this board, Wing, Krug, Wellensiek, Hoffman, Wendt and Yost served through 1918 and also through 1919, and in 1920 the board was F. C. Hoffman, Wm. Wendt, C. C. Krug, M. E. Whisenand, H. G. Wellensiek and Edw. Schuck. Superintendent H. S. Harris in 1920, got into a shooting scandal and was displaced by superintendent Dell Gibson, who was serving in 1920, with Miss Adkins as High School principal.

#### LIBRARY BOARD OF HARVARD

February, 1914: A. J. Jenison, L. A. Higgins, J. E. Tillotson, Miss E. M. Bengtson, Mrs. Eller, H. G. Thomas, H. G. Wellensiek, G. W. Phillips, Miss Ketcham.

March, 1915: A. J. Jenison, L. A. Higgins, J. E. Tillotson, Miss E. M. Bengtson, Mrs. Eller, H. G. Thomas, H. G. Wellensiek, G. W. Phillips, Miss Ketcham, Mrs. Jenison, librarian.

August, 1915: A. J. Jenison, L. A. Higgins, J. E. Tillotson, Miss E. M. Bengtson, Mrs. Eller, H. G. Thomas, H. G. Wellensiek, L. J. Gilkeson, Miss Ketcham. Mrs. Jenison, librarian.

The same board served in 1916.

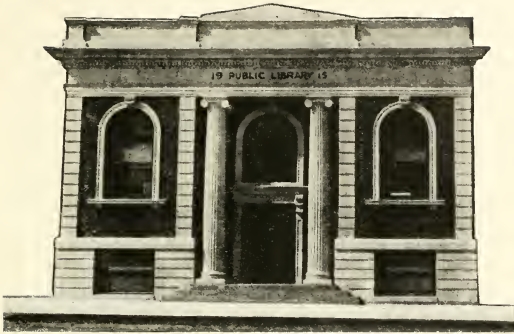
April, 1917: Jenison, Higgins, Traut, Bengtson, Eller, Thomas and Ketcham served, with C. H. Wing and Eberhart as new members.

In 1918, Schwenk and L. J. Gilkeson were the new members vice Higgins and Eberhart.

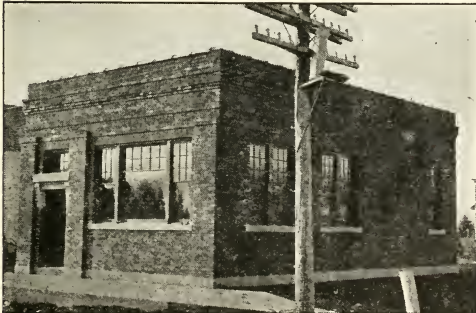
In first part of 1919, Newhor and Tillotson succeeded Jenison and Gilkeson.

A change from nine to five in 1919, left as the new board, Traut, Bengtson, Mrs. C. J. Eller, G. H. Thomas and Tillotson. C. H. Wing succeeded Miss Bengtson, and with Traut, Mrs. Eller, Thomas and King has constituted the board in 1920 and 1921.

The first religious services here were conducted by Rev. Numan Brass, a Methodist, in August, 1871, and the house of worship was his pre-emption shanty on his claim. In July of this year a class of ten members was organized by him and for some time services were conducted in a railroad coach until the



HARVARD LIBRARY, HARVARD



HARVARD STATE BANK, HARVARD





school building was completed. In 1882 Rev. Mr. Wilkinson was preacher to a society of sixty-one members, who purchased the Union Church building at Sheriff's sale, and were owners in 1882. The Harvard and Glenville classes were organized in May, 1872. In April, 1873, Rev. E. J. Willis was sent by the conference to the Harvard Circuit, which comprised all of Clay County. First Quarterly Conference of this church was held at Harvard, June 21, 1873. Soon after this conference, the southern portion of the county was organized into the Little Sandy Circuit, Rev. Mr. Penny (supply).

There were, in 1882, twenty appointments in the county, with a membership of over 500. The preachers in charge since 1879 are named as follows: Stevens, E. Wilkinson, S. B. Clay, J. K. Maxfield, Rippetoe, Markle, J. B. Pinckard and Mr. Jones.

The Presbyterian Society was organized January 13, 1878, with fourteen members by Rev. A. M. Dickson, of Edgar, and Rev. H. M. Getner, of Aurora. At this time E. H. Nye was chosen elder, H. R. Wheeler, T. A. Barbour, C. H. De Groff, L. A. Campbell and W. H. Chadwick, trustees. In June, 1879, a church house was commenced, and during work thereon services were held in the schoolhouse or in Phillip's Hall. The society's building cost \$600, and was dedicated in November 1879, by Rev. G. L. Little, Rev. J. L. Lower, the pastor, assisting.

In 1882, there were forty-three members. Edwin Updike and D. M. Waggoner were elders, C. H. De Groff, L. J. Titus, D. J. Hume, N. H. Pontius and J. Gardner, trustees. The church was built on the "Union Plan," the society contributing most to hold title to the property.

The Congregationalists were the winners, but being unable to pay off the debts, the building was sold by the sheriff to the Methodists. Mr. Lower remained with the church until it ceased to exist, many of the members joining the Congregational Society.

A Baptist Society of ten persons was formed in July, 1872, by Rev. J. N. Webb, in the dwelling of C. H. Warner. The first regular services were held January 26, 1873, by Rev. I. D. Newell, who was hired as pastor. This society has not been referred to in the local press of the county for some years.

The Catholic Church of Harvard was founded here in 1879, and Father Glauber attended the mission for some years. Father Simeon succeeded, and Harvard was included in his mission. The congregation purchased the old Presbyterian Church house and refitted it for the purposes of Catholic worship.

St. Johns Protestant Episcopal Church was organized September 20, 1881, by Rev. John Greenwood, of Hastings. The officers chosen were John D. Hayes and D. Nichols, wardens, N. H. Lewis, F. L. Foreman and William Newton, vestrymen, W. H. Canfield, treasurer, and W. E. Orwin, secretary.

The Union Sunday-school dates back to the fall of 1872, when a class was organized in Alex. Meston's dwelling. Services were held in Sawtell's Hall until 1879-80, when denominational classes were formed, the Presbyterians leaving the Union in January, 1879. In January, 1881, the Methodists left the Union.

In the early months of 1872, when Harvard comprised but four or five small buildings, Rev. D. B. Perry, a Congregational minister then recently graduated from Yale University, now president of Doane College, had for his parish the whole of Hamilton County. He extended his field into Clay enough to include Harvard and Sutton. Services were held on alternate Sabbaths, first

in a railroad car, then in a private house. A Congregational church was organized July 13, 1873, with the following members: J. P. Todd, Alex. Meston, Mrs. Agnes Meston, C. H. Miner, W. A. McLeon, E. L. Brown and Margaret E. Decker. The names of clerks in order are S. Backus, 1872; L. G. Hurd, 1875; Mrs. C. K. Morrill, 1879; Mrs. C. K. Morrill, January 13, 1881; T. R. Hall, December 29, 1881; Mrs. G. E. Taylor, 1882; E. J. Moger, 1883; Mrs. Celia A. Hurd, C. R. Morrill, Henry Noyes, July, 1888; James Donnelly, January, 1889.

The Christian Church of Harvard was formally organized in October, 1883, and organized in May, 1884, with the following named members: Mrs. C. Rockhill, Mrs. M. W. Wilcox, Miss Alice Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. Neri Smith, A. H. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gantz, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cline, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Stiles, Miss Anna Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore, George C. Shetler, Miss L. C. Shetler, and Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Spicer.

The pastors in the order of services were: C. B. Lotspiech, B. F. Bush, O. C. Hubbell, L. F. Van Cleve and G. T. Black.

Mrs. M. W. Wilcox has served as secretary since organization. There were one hundred twenty-six members. In 1885 the church house was erected under the direction of the following named building committee: C. Rockhill, George Le Baron and T. H. Spicer.

#### EARLY HISTORY

##### COURIER OF MAY 30, 1918

While browsing around in the back room Saturday evening I came across a bound volume of the first year's issue of the Courier. The first number was issued January 10, 1885. It was published by the Harvard Printing Company, of which T. H. Matters was sole owner. Sam W. Winstrop was editor. He continued in that position for one year, being succeeded by Edward Southworth. At the end of the first, Mr. Matters announced himself as publisher and the Harvard Printing Company ceased to exist until the first of this year when the present corporation assumed ownership. Because of the failure of some of the material to arrive the first issue of the paper consisted of only four pages.

At that time there were ten papers in Clay County, the Courier being the tenth. Harvard had two papers, the Clay County Journal, being the other one with G. W. Limbocker as editor and manager. With true frontier journalistic courtesy the Courier remarks that this paper sometimes comes out on time and attempts to meet the genuine demands of its readers.

Among the advertisements in the first issue we notice the names of C. Rockhill, Oakley Johnson, B. S. Harrington, C. J. Scott, C. M. Whitney, Thomas H. Matters, he was the owner and could afford to advertise, Leslie G. Hurd, Lebarne & Pontious, Donnelly & McBride, W. S. Dexter, John E. Lorimer, Taylor & Totten, Exchange Bank, L. A. Payne & Company, and J. R. Robinson. A later issue contains the ad of Webster & Son and announces that Bert has been taken into partnership. Bert volunteers the further information that he was married that year.

S. C. Sloat was postmaster and C. D. Moore, C. H. DeGross, L. J. Titus,



GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HARVARD



GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH, HARVARD



John D. Bain and C. J. Scott comprised the village board. Charles K. Morrill was village clerk and Wm. H. Canfield, treasurer.

James K. Maxfield was pastor of the Methodist church, E. Southworth of the Congregational church, Father Simenio had charge of the Catholic church and the Christian and Episcopal churches were without pastors.

A complete write-up of the town is promised in an early issue but this did not appear until the issue for January 2, 1886. This was quite complete when it did appear and contained much that is of historical interest besides the usual puffs for the business men. Some day when I have time and space to spare this will be reproduced for the benefit of the present generation.

Everybody likes the home paper but few realize its historical value to a town until the opportunity is given to look over such old files as are here mentioned.

At the time this paper was printed corn was selling for seventeen cents a bushel but there was a prospect that it might go up to twenty cents and the editor congratulated those who had been long-headed enough to hold their crop. Oats were worth about ten cents, wheat forty-five to fifty-five cents and hogs \$3.25 to \$3.50.

In printing extracts from these old papers I shall hope to stir up the memories of a lot of the old-timers so they will give me other interesting things about the early days to print. Everyone likes to read such stories, the old folks for the memories they bring and the young folks for the information that is given.

#### HARVARD'S BANKS

Mr. Thomas has given a review of the history of the management of the banks of Harvard. We cannot leave the subject entirely without a short table showing the gradual growth of the Harvard banks, at least the totals shown by their statements, within the past decade.

Year 1910, Harvard State, deposits, \$175,400; Union State, deposits, \$275,000.

In year 1916, Harvard State, deposits, \$181,000; Union State, deposits, \$356,000.

In year 1921, Harvard State, deposits, \$265,000; Union State, deposits, \$650,000.

The roster of officers and directors of the Harvard banks during the years past discloses the names of many men who have played a very prominent part in Harvard's commercial growth and development, and some of them of state and national fame and achievement. As officers of the Union State have been Edward Updike, P. H. Updike, G. S. Babcock, the Updike family having started their business career out of Harvard; N. D. Blackwell and S. H. Blackwell, G. A. Herzog, P. Rosenbaum, G. T. Prall, J. H. Yost, a state and national figure in the lumber world; W. H. Swartz; Theo. Griess, George H. and Harrie G. Thomas.

At some time or other connected with the Harvard State Bank have been, Thomas H. Matters, C. Rockhill, Cleveland Eller and Jos. H. Byram, back in the late nineties, in its days as the First National; since then, G. A. Herzog, as President, M. Weil, now of National Bank of Commerce, Lincoln, as Vice-Pres. W. H. Herzog, M. R. Chittick, Frank Dieringer, J. Delaney, Geo. W. Phillips, L. W. Southwick, M. I. Aitkin, John Murtey, M. F. Harrington, J. W. Iliff,

Peter Wagner, F. Kuenneth, Geo. Keasling, T. A. Blakeslee, as Cashier, now head of Nebraska School of Business at Lincoln; S. J. Johnson, L. E. Bayles, I. L. Yoeman, H. G. Wellenseik, in recent years President, John R. Simpson, as Cashier, J. Krutz.

#### HARVARD'S STORES

The leading business house of Harvard for three decades has been the store established by Wolbach and Black. S. N. Wolbach and J. S. Wolbach started a store in Grand Island in 1874. This firm has built up stores in numerous other Nebraska cities, some of which are almost a half century later, leading business establishments of central Nebraska. Some twenty years ago Weil & Rosenbaum took over the Wolbach store. The Wolbach and Black Company have built up a leading department store in Hastings and S. P. Rosenbaum & Sons have built up a store in Harvard, often claim to be Clay County's largest business establishment.

There has been more continuity of ownership and longer terms of service by merchants in Harvard than in any other Clay County town. Other notable examples of this stands out in the stock originally the Yost-Ayton-Morris Company, which followed the J. T. Sheehan and Company and Hurd Brothers store.

The One Price Store later became the Yost-Ayton-Swartz Company and then the Ayton-Forney and the stock was closed out in about 1917. Another such stock is the old Webster, then Webster and Son and then J. A. Webster store which Mr. Webster ran for practically twenty-five or thirty years.

The John Ayton Elkhorn Meat Market started in the nineties and ran until Mr. Ayton's death in 1919.

Mention has been elsewhere made of the earlier drug stores of Harvard. C. A. Morrill, C. D. Moore started in the seventies, George W. Martin in the eighties and I. D. Howard and W. F. North drug stock in Harvard was bought earlier in the nineties by H. C. Stokes, this was burned and rebuilt, eventually became the Kenowen stock and then the Opera House Pharmacy of Dr. H. H. Seely. L. F. Hunt's Pharmacy started about thirteen or fourteen years ago.

The Harvard Furniture Company is the successor of the old Livingston Brothers Hardware, Furniture and Undertaking establishment, owned at times by Hill and Tucker, Mitchel-Moore Brothers, Mithelmore and Bobbett and Bobbett and Burns. The L. A. Higgins Hardware Company has been running in Harvard for twenty years. The Charles C. Perry and Company hardware stock succeeded the old W. T. Perry stock.

The J. H. Yost Lumber Company, which now has a string of yards through Nebraska and is one of the leading firms in that line in the state, started out of Harvard and has had a yard at Harvard for many years. The S. J. Rice Company, of the nineties, sold its yard to the Updike Lumber Company. This yard later was owned by Panley and Bolten Lumber Company and in recent years by Edward Schuck.

The original Updike Grain elevator was another Harvard institution, and the Updike Grain Company, with elevators and offices in many cities, is another

Harvard contribution to the big business world of Nebraska. Nelson B. Updike in 1920 became an owner of the Omaha Bee.

Other business concerns in years past in Harvard worthy of mention were: O. C. Clark, family grocery; Newton and Son, grocery; C. F. Corine, grocery; D. E. Morris, cash grocery; J. R. Everett, White Front Drug Store; J. C. Mewhor, pharmacy; A. R. Weaver, drugs; Weaver Watch Company; Turners Garage; C. A. Lyons Cosy Restaurant; Seneca-Wing Implements; Harod Implements Company; A. J. Moger, implements; Hartley & Phels, livery; Johnson & Company; Harvard Well Works; Harvard Fuel & Ice Company; Harvard Electric Company.

Harvard's business directory in 1920 shows:

Arthur Belden, shop	J. C. Mewhor, Drug Store
O. O. Buck	Mr. H. A. Micke, green house
Dr. F. A. Butler	George W. Miller, Attorney
C. & N. W. Depot	Wm. Miller, store
City Bakery	Nebraska & Iowa Grain Co.
City Water Works	Opera House Cafe
Community Club Rooms	Charles Perry & Co., hardware and furniture
Courier Office	Person & Wyckoff
D. V. Curry Cream Station	C. P. Phillips, men's furnishings
Dr. D. J. Eller, Dentist	S. P. Rosenbaum, General Mdse.
Farmers Union Elevator Co.	D. T. Sabin, cream station
H. B. Golding Poultry Company	Schuck Lumber Co.
J. W. Hanson Poultry Co.	Seely Opera House Pharmacy
Harvard Electric Co.	Schwenk & Bieck, implements
Harvard Furniture Co.	Spicer Brothers, garage
Harvard Mill	Standard Oil Co.
Harvard Meat Market	Star Livery Barn
Harvard State Bank	D. W. Stone, Veterinarian
Higgins Hardware Co.	H. K. Tickler, store
Hosier & Hagemeister, garage	H. T. Tillotson, jewelry store
The New Harvard Hotel	Union State Bank
Dr. I. D. Howard	Updike Grain Co.
L. F. Hunt, pharmacy	Weaver Watch Co., store
Dr. J. E. Ingram	J. H. Webster, store
Dr. A. J. Jenison	H. G. Wellensiek
Dr. H. W. Kellogg, Chiro.	Yost Lumber & Coal Co.
Carrie Ketcham, store	
Public Library	

## CHAPTER VIII

### FAIRFIELD

EARLY FAIRFIELD—CITY GOVERNMENT—EARLY FACTS, MIKE CLANCY—HISTORY OF SCHOOLS—BANKS—RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES—STORES.

Fairfield is the new name of the old postoffice center, known as White Elm. In point of settlement and progress it ranks with its sister towns of Sutton, Harvard and Edgar. It is the center of trade for the southwestern townships of Clay County and the towns adjoining on the south and west. Its grain market is celebrated and the surrounding country peopled by an industrious class of citizens.

Fairfield town site was entered by Maximilian Reed in 1871 (northeast quarter Section 4, Township 5, Range 7). He sold this claim to A. B. Smith, H. J. Higgins, R. Bayly, Cornelius Dunn and sixteen others who proposed to establish a town here. Fairfield was surveyed for the St. Joe & Denver Railroad Company, September 11, 1874, by A. R. Buttolph, and the first sale of lots was made September 18, J. H. Epley buying the first lot offered. John Clancy was the pioneer settler on the town-site, he being manager of the boarding car, and later of the section house during the construction of the road. In June, 1872, the railroad company erected a depot east of the old settlement, this was followed by the section house; Jaynes' office and lumber yard followed in the fall, and then Chandler & Aikins carpenter shop. Early in 1873, T. E. Broderick purchased Jaynes' building and later, McPeak & Sons established a hardware store in the carpenter shop. In September, 1874, J. H. Epley and Smith & Spencer moved their stores from the old to the new town-site; J. C. Clark established a lumber yard; D. McDonald a blacksmith shop; J. W. Small a real estate office and Hopper & Conrad a drug store.

A postoffice was established in the fall of 1871, at a point two miles northwest of the present town called White Elm, and kept by J. P. Scott, postmaster. The location of the office was changed and brought into town on June 27, 1873, at which time it passed into the hands of L. Brewer, who was commissioned postmaster.

The office, after being variously called by the citizens, was finally given the name which it now bears. Mr. Brewer continued postmaster from his first appointment up to February, 1886, with the exception of about seven months in 1881, when H. S. Gould received the commission, but gave place to Brewer January 1, 1882.

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EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, FAIRFIELD, 1878



WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, FAIRFIELD, 1878



## CITY GOVERNMENT

The petition of J. H. Conrad and twenty-five others, for the incorporation of Fairfield, was presented July 1, 1878. L. F. Fryar, D. Howe, J. R. Maltby, John Epley and W. S. Prickett were named chairmen; O. G. Maury, clerk; C. F. Shedd, treasurer; A. A. Kelsey, marshal (succeeded by P. G. Hayes); W. S. Prickett, attorney. The board passed the first ordinance on the 23rd day of July, 1878.

The officers elected for the year 1879 were Trustees, J. E. Hopper, G. E. Glass, C. Palmer (chairman), J. R. Madison and H. Spencer, clerk, O. G. Maury, treasurer, John Biddle.

1880—Trustees, J. E. Hopper, Charles Palmer, chairman; O. H. Judd, G. E. Glass, H. Spencer; clerk, F. H. Willis.

1881—Trustees, J. R. Maltby, D. Howe, J. Tweed, D. Murdock, chairman, and E. L. Brewer, treasurer, J. H. Case; clerk, J. C. Hedge.

1882—Trustees, W. S. Randall, chairman; T. J. Loomis, A. Broderick, C. F. Shedd and J. C. Hedge; clerk, D. Howe; treasurer, Charles Lewis.

In 1883 W. S. Randall was chairman; J. E. Broderick, J. E. Hopper, M. B. Gates and B. F. Rawalt, trustees, E. D. Judd, clerk; W. S. Prickett, attorney; C. L. Lewis, treasurer, and William Crawford, street commissioner.

In April 1884, Henry Spencer, M. B. Gates, S. J. Anthony, and A. J. Minor were elected trustees, while O. P. Alexander, W. Kentner and J. C. Clark received each forty votes for the fifth position on the board.

In 1885 Messrs. Randall, Gates, A. G. Sherwood, T. J. Loomis and D. Howe, were trustees; E. D. Judd, clerk; C. L. Lewis, treasurer; W. S. Prickett, attorney; Thomas Myers, marshal, and E. Gates, street commissioner.

The trustees elected in 1886 were M. B. Gates, A. G. Sherwood, A. A. Randall C. F. Shedd and Charles Lewis; E. A. Mitchell was appointed clerk; W. S. Prickett, attorney, and J. L. Epperson, treasurer.

The trustees elected in April, 1887, were O. C. Hubbell, Dr. A. J. Bacon, A. B. Smith, H. M. Goldsmith and C. L. Lewis; E. A. Mitchell was re-appointed clerk; T. J. Loomis, treasurer, and J. E. Broderick, marshal.

The election of April 3, 1888, resulted in the choice of the following named trustees: C. L. Lewis, B. J. Wright, M. B. Gates, George Avery and George J. Pielstick; James H. Brooks was appointed clerk; J. L. Epperson, attorney; J. E. Broderick, marshal; Elmer Gates, street commissioner, and T. J. Loomis, treasurer.

In April, 1889, J. E. Hopper was elected mayor; J. H. Brooks, clerk; T. J. Loomis, treasurer; C. M. Prickett, city engineer; Frank Phillips, A. R. Ray, S. H. Lewis and C. W. Potter, councilmen.

The roster of members who have so faithfully served upon the Board of Trustees of Fairfield since 1890 have been:

1890—C. L. Lewis, G. W. Avery, C. W. Potter, A. R. Ray, E. L. Lewis.

1891—D. B. Massie, Avery, Potter, Ira Titus, Lewis.

1892—E. L. Lewis, D. Howe, S. J. Loomis, Ira Titus.

1893—A. M. Babcock, Howe, Loomis, Geo. Glass, J. E. Broderick.

1894—H. A. Lusk, D. B. Potter, Glass, Broderick, W. B. Hayden.

1895—Hubbell, Potter, Broderick, D. F. Fisher, Hayden.

- 1896—O. C. Hubbell, J. A. Riddell, Broderick, Fisher, S. C. Thompson.  
 1897—Palmer, Riddell, Riggs, Shively and Thompson.  
 1898—Broderick, J. Baldis, Z. H. Riggs, Shively and Thompson.  
 1899—Joseph Kyne, Roberts, Weyenberg, Stiner and Parker.  
 1900—Joseph Kyne, F. D. Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1901—H. A. Lusk, Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1902—H. A. Lusk, Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1903—Epley, Hastings, A. G. Corey, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1904—A. R. Ray, Hastings, Shively, P. L. Kissinger and Spencer.  
 1905—A. R. Ray, C. C. Parker, Shively, Kissinger and Speneer.  
 1906—A. R. Ray, T. P. Shively, C. C. Parker, Wm. Emrich and P. L. Kissinger.
- Kissinger.  
 1907—W. W. McCashland, Shively, J. E. Wilcox, Emrich and Kissinger.  
 1908—McCashland, Shively, Wilcox, C. L. Lewis and M. D. Gates.  
 1909—J. M. Sanford, Shively, Wilcox, M. J. Spicer and M. D. Gates.  
 1910—C. L. Lewis, Kissinger, Wilcox, H. E. Potter and George Krell.  
 1911—D. B. Potter, B. D. Massie, F. W. Reed, H. E. Potter, and Krell.  
 1912—D. B. Potter, Massie, Reed, A. E. Kunselman and A. E. Hochman.  
 1913—Joseph Kyne, C. A. Reeder, W. A. Lewis, Kunselman and Hochman.  
 1914—Wm. Emrich, Kunselman, W. A. Lewis, E. A. Williams and Jos. Johnson.
- Johnson.  
 1915—Emrich, Kunselman C. J. Harris, E. A. Williams and Jos. Johnson.  
 1916—Emrich, Kunselman, Harris, Williams, and Guy McLaughlin.  
 1917—Emrich, Kunselman, C. Wayne Harvey, Dr. S. C. Adkins and Day.  
 1918—A. E. Kunselman, Stephenson, Harvey, Adkins and Day.  
 1919—E. H. Burnham, Stephenson, O. H. Berry, Adkins and Fred Hill.  
 1920—Wm. Ashby, W. D. Owens, F. L. Lewis, Allen Overturf and F. L. Hill.

WHEN THE COURT HOUSE CORNER STONE WAS LAID IN 1918, THE FOLLOWING SKETCH OF FAIRFIELD CITY WAS FURNISHED BY CHARLES H. EPPERSON

The first building on the site of Fairfield was the section house built by the St. Joseph & Western Railway Company in 1872. John Clancy, one of the first section men, with his family, occupied the building, immediately after its completion, as a residence and boarding house.

The townsite of Fairfield was surveyed in 1874, John H. Epley bought the first town lot after the townsite was surveyed, and erected the first business house, a frame building, on Lot 7 of block 16 of the original town. Mr. Epley is still a resident of Fairfield.

D. P. Jaynes built the first dwelling house in the town in the spring of 1875. It was built on Lots 11 and 12 in Block 20 of the original town, as afterwards surveyed and platted.

Fairfield was incorporated as a village July 1st, 1878. The first village trustees were: Louis F. Fryar, Dennison Howe, John R. Maltby, John Epley and Walter S. Prickett.

On February 25, 1889, Fairfield became a city of the second class and the following named persons were the first city officers, viz.: John E. Hopper, mayor;

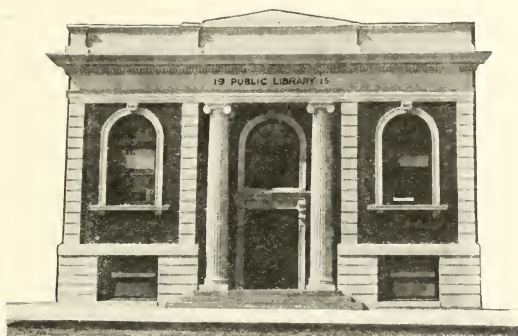


RESIDENCE OF JOHN E. HOPPER, FAIRFIELD, 1881

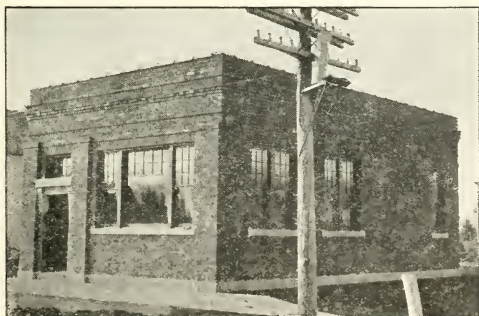


RESIDENCE OF JOHN E. HOPPER, FAIRFIELD, 1918





HARVARD LIBRARY, HARVARD



HARVARD STATE BANK, HARVARD





school building was completed. In 1882 Rev. Mr. Wilkinson was preacher to a society of sixty-one members, who purchased the Union Church building at Sheriff's sale, and were owners in 1882. The Harvard and Glenville classes were organized in May, 1872. In April, 1873, Rev. E. J. Willis was sent by the conference to the Harvard Circuit, which comprised all of Clay County. First Quarterly Conference of this church was held at Harvard, June 21, 1873. Soon after this conference, the southern portion of the county was organized into the Little Sandy Circuit, Rev. Mr. Penny (supply).

There were, in 1882, twenty appointments in the county, with a membership of over 500. The preachers in charge since 1879 are named as follows: Stevens, E. Wilkinson, S. B. Clay, J. K. Maxfield, Rippetoe, Markle, J. B. Pinckard and Mr. Jones.

The Presbyterian Society was organized January 13, 1878, with fourteen members by Rev. A. M. Dickson, of Edgar, and Rev. H. M. Getner, of Aurora. At this time E. H. Nye was chosen elder, H. R. Wheeler, T. A. Barbour, C. H. De Groff, L. A. Campbell and W. H. Chadwick, trustees. In June, 1879, a church house was commenced, and during work thereon services were held in the school-house or in Phillip's Hall. The society's building cost \$600, and was dedicated in November 1879, by Rev. G. L. Little, Rev. J. L. Lower, the pastor, assisting.

In 1882, there were forty-three members. Edwin Updike and D. M. Waggoner were elders, C. H. De Groff, L. J. Titus, D. J. Hume, N. H. Pontius and J. Gardner, trustees. The church was built on the "Union Plan," the society contributing most to hold title to the property.

The Congregationalists were the winners, but being unable to pay off the debts, the building was sold by the sheriff to the Methodists. Mr. Lower remained with the church until it ceased to exist, many of the members joining the Congregational Society.

A Baptist Society of ten persons was formed in July, 1872, by Rev. J. N. Webb, in the dwelling of C. H. Warner. The first regular services were held January 26, 1873, by Rev. I. D. Newell, who was hired as pastor. This society has not been referred to in the local press of the county for some years.

The Catholic Church of Harvard was founded here in 1879, and Father Glauber attended the mission for some years. Father Simeon succeeded, and Harvard was included in his mission. The congregation purchased the old Presbyterian Church house and refitted it for the purposes of Catholic worship.

St. Johns Protestant Episcopal Church was organized September 20, 1881, by Rev. John Greenwood, of Hastings. The officers chosen were John D. Hayes and D. Nichols, wardens, N. H. Lewis, F. L. Foreman and William Newton, vestrymen, W. H. Canfield, treasurer, and W. E. Orwin, secretary.

The Union Sunday-school dates back to the fall of 1872, when a class was organized in Alex. Meston's dwelling. Services were held in Sawtell's Hall until 1879-80, when denominational classes were formed, the Presbyterians leaving the Union in January, 1879. In January, 1881, the Methodists left the Union.

In the early months of 1872, when Harvard comprised but four or five small buildings, Rev. D. B. Perry, a Congregational minister then recently graduated from Yale University, now president of Doane College, had for his parish the whole of Hamilton County. He extended his field into Clay enough to include Harvard and Sutton. Services were held on alternate Sabbaths, first

in a railroad car, then in a private house. A Congregational church was organized July 13, 1873, with the following members: J. P. Todd, Alex. Meston, Mrs. Agnes Meston, C. H. Miner, W. A. McLeon, E. L. Brown and Margaret E. Decker. The names of clerks in order are S. Backus, 1872; L. G. Hurd, 1875; Mrs. C. K. Morrill, 1879; Mrs. C. K. Morrill, January 13, 1881; T. R. Hall, December 29, 1881; Mrs. G. E. Taylor, 1882; E. J. Moger, 1883; Mrs. Celia A. Hurd, C. R. Morrill, Henry Noyes, July, 1888; James Donnelly, January, 1889.

The Christian Church of Harvard was formally organized in October, 1883, and organized in May, 1884, with the following named members: Mrs. C. Rockhill, Mrs. M. W. Wilcox, Miss Alice Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. Neri Smith, A. H. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gantz, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Cline, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Stiles, Miss Anna Stiles, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore, George C. Shetler, Miss L. C. Shetler, and Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Spicer.

The pastors in the order of services were: C. B. Lotspiech, B. F. Bush, O. C. Hubbell, L. F. Van Cleve and G. T. Black.

Mrs. M. W. Wilcox has served as secretary since organization. There were one hundred twenty-six members. In 1885 the church house was erected under the direction of the following named building committee: C. Rockhill, George Le Baron and T. H. Spicer.

#### EARLY HISTORY

COURIER OF MAY 30, 1918

While browsing around in the back room Saturday evening I came across a bound volume of the first year's issue of the Courier. The first number was issued January 10, 1885. It was published by the Harvard Printing Company, of which T. H. Matters was sole owner. Sam W. Winstrop was editor. He continued in that position for one year, being succeeded by Edward Southworth. At the end of the first, Mr. Matters announced himself as publisher and the Harvard Printing Company ceased to exist until the first of this year when the present corporation assumed ownership. Because of the failure of some of the material to arrive the first issue of the paper consisted of only four pages.

At that time there were ten papers in Clay County, the Courier being the tenth. Harvard had two papers, the Clay County Journal, being the other one with G. W. Limboecker as editor and manager. With true frontier journalistic courtesy the Courier remarks that this paper sometimes comes out on time and attempts to meet the genuine demands of its readers.

Among the advertisements in the first issue we notice the names of C. Rockhill, Oakley Johnson, B. S. Harrington, C. J. Scott, C. M. Whitney, Thomas H. Matters, he was the owner and could afford to advertise, Leslie G. Hurd, Lebarne & Pontious, Donnelly & McBride, W. S. Dexter, John E. Lorimer, Taylor & Totten, Exchange Bank, L. A. Payne & Company, and J. R. Robinson. A later issue contains the ad of Webster & Son and announces that Bert has been taken into partnership. Bert volunteers the further information that he was married that year.

S. C. Sloat was postmaster and C. D. Moore, C. H. DeGroff, L. J. Titus,



GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HARVARD



GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH, HARVARD



John D. Bain and C. J. Scott comprised the village board. Charles K. Morrill was village clerk and Wm. H. Canfield, treasurer.

James K. Maxfield was pastor of the Methodist church, E. Southworth of the Congregational church, Father Simenio had charge of the Catholic church and the Christian and Episcopal churches were without pastors.

A complete write-up of the town is promised in an early issue but this did not appear until the issue for January 2, 1886. This was quite complete when it did appear and contained much that is of historical interest besides the usual puffs for the business men. Some day when I have time and space to spare this will be reproduced for the benefit of the present generation.

Everybody likes the home paper but few realize its historical value to a town until the opportunity is given to look over such old files as are here mentioned.

At the time this paper was printed corn was selling for seventeen cents a bushel but there was a prospect that it might go up to twenty cents and the editor congratulated those who had been long-headed enough to hold their crop. Oats were worth about ten cents, wheat forty-five to fifty-five cents and hogs \$3.25 to \$3.50.

In printing extracts from these old papers I shall hope to stir up the memories of a lot of the old-timers so they will give me other interesting things about the early days to print. Everyone likes to read such stories, the old folks for the memories they bring and the young folks for the information that is given.

#### HARVARD'S BANKS

Mr. Thomas has given a review of the history of the management of the banks of Harvard. We cannot leave the subject entirely without a short table showing the gradual growth of the Harvard banks, at least the totals shown by their statements, within the past decade.

Year 1910, Harvard State, deposits, \$175,400; Union State, deposits, \$275,000.

In year 1916, Harvard State, deposits, \$181,000; Union State, deposits, \$356,000.

In year 1921, Harvard State, deposits, \$265,000; Union State, deposits, \$650,000.

The roster of officers and directors of the Harvard banks during the years past discloses the names of many men who have played a very prominent part in Harvard's commercial growth and development, and some of them of state and national fame and achievement. As officers of the Union State have been Edward Updike, P. H. Updike, G. S. Babcock, the Updike family having started their business career out of Harvard; N. D. Blackwell and S. H. Blackwell, G. A. Herzog, P. Rosenbaum, G. T. Prall, J. H. Yost, a state and national figure in the lumber world; W. H. Swartz; Theo. Griess, George H. and Harrie G. Thomas.

At some time or other connected with the Harvard State Bank have been, Thomas H. Matters, C. Rockhill, Cleveland Eller and Jos. H. Byram, back in the late nineties, in its days as the First National; since then, G. A. Herzog, as President, M. Weil, now of National Bank of Commerce, Lincoln, as Vice-Pres. W. H. Herzog, M. R. Chittick, Frank Dieringer, J. Delaney, Geo. W. Phillips, L. W. Southwick, M. I. Aitkin, John Murtey, M. F. Harrington, J. W. Iliff,

Peter Wagner, F. Knenneth, Geo. Keasling, T. A. Blakeslee, as Cashier, now head of Nebraska School of Business at Lincoln; S. J. Johnson, L. E. Bayles, I. L. Yoeman, H. G. Wellenseik, in recent years President, John R. Simpson, as Cashier, J. Krutz.

#### HARVARD'S STORES

The leading business house of Harvard for three decades has been the store established by Wolbach and Black. S. N. Wolbach and J. S. Wolbach started a store in Grand Island in 1874. This firm has built up stores in numerous other Nebraska cities, some of which are almost a half century later, leading business establishments of central Nebraska. Some twenty years ago Weil & Rosenbaum took over the Wolbach store. The Wolbach and Black Company have built up a leading department store in Hastings and S. P. Rosenbaum & Sons have built up a store in Harvard, often claim to be Clay County's largest business establishment.

There has been more continuity of ownership and longer terms of service by merchants in Harvard than in any other Clay County town. Other notable examples of this stands out in the stock originally the Yost-Ayton-Morris Company, which followed the J. T. Sheehan and Company and Hurd Brothers store.

The One Price Store later became the Yost-Ayton-Swartz Company and then the Ayton-Forney and the stock was closed out in about 1917. Another such stock is the old Webster, then Webster and Son and then J. A. Webster store which Mr. Webster ran for practically twenty-five or thirty years.

The John Ayton Elkhorn Meat Market started in the nineties and ran until Mr. Ayton's death in 1919.

Mention has been elsewhere made of the earlier drug stores of Harvard. C. A. Morrill, C. D. Moore started in the seventies, George W. Martin in the eighties and I. D. Howard and W. F. North drug stock in Harvard was bought earlier in the nineties by H. C. Stokes, this was burned and rebuilt, eventually became the Kenowen stock and then the Opera House Pharmacy of Dr. H. H. Seely. L. F. Hunt's Pharmacy started about thirteen or fourteen years ago.

The Harvard Furniture Company is the successor of the old Livingston Brothers Hardware, Furniture and Undertaking establishment, owned at times by Hill and Tucker, Mitchel-Moore Brothers, Mithelmore and Bobbett and Bobbett and Burns. The L. A. Higgins Hardware Company has been running in Harvard for twenty years. The Charles C. Perry and Company hardware stock succeeded the old W. T. Perry stock.

The J. H. Yost Lumber Company, which now has a string of yards through Nebraska and is one of the leading firms in that line in the state, started out of Harvard and has had a yard at Harvard for many years. The S. J. Rice Company, of the nineties, sold its yard to the Updike Lumber Company. This yard later was owned by Pauley and Bolten Lumber Company and in recent years by Edward Schuck.

The original Updike Grain elevator was another Harvard institution, and the Updike Grain Company, with elevators and offices in many cities, is another

Harvard contribution to the big business world of Nebraska. Nelson B. Updike in 1920 became an owner of the Omaha Bee.

Other business concerns in years past in Harvard worthy of mention were: O. C. Clark, family grocery; Newton and Son, grocery; C. F. Corine, grocery; D. E. Morris, cash grocery; J. R. Everett, White Front Drug Store; J. C. Mewhor, pharmacy; A. R. Weaver, drugs; Weaver Watch Company; Turners Garage; C. A. Lyons Cosy Restaurant; Seneca-Wing Implements; Harod Implements Company; A. J. Moger, implements; Hartley & Phels, livery; Johnson & Company; Harvard Well Works; Harvard Fuel & Ice Company; Harvard Electric Company.

Harvard's business directory in 1920 shows:

Arthur Belden, shop	J. C. Mewhor, Drug Store
O. O. Buck	Mr. H. A. Mieke, green house
Dr. F. A. Butler	George W. Miller, Attorney
C. & N. W. Depot	Wm. Miller, store
City Bakery	Nebraska & Iowa Grain Co.
City Water Works	Opera House Cafe
Community Club Rooms	Charles Perry & Co., hardware and furniture
Courier Office	Person & Wyckoff
D. V. Curry Cream Station	C. P. Phillips, men's furnishings
Dr. D. J. Eller, Dentist	S. P. Rosenbaum, General Mdse.
Farmers Union Elevator Co.	D. T. Sabin, cream station
H. B. Golding Poultry Company	Schuck Lumber'Co.
J. W. Hanson Poultry Co.	Seely Opera House Pharmacy
Harvard Electric Co.	Schwenk & Bieck, implements
Harvard Furniture Co.	Spicer Brothers, garage
Harvard Mill	Standard Oil Co.
Harvard Meat Market	Star Livery Barn
Harvard State Bank	D. W. Stone, Veterinarian
Higgins Hardware Co.	H. K. Tiekler, store
Hosier & Hagemeister, garage	H. T. Tillotson, jewelry store
The New Harvard Hotel	Union State Bank
Dr. I. D. Howard	Updike Grain Co.
L. F. Hunt, pharmacy	Weaver Watch Co., store
Dr. J. E. Ingram	J. H. Webster, store
Dr. A. J. Jenison	H. G. Wellensiek
Dr. H. W. Kellogg, Chiro.	Yost Lumber & Coal Co.
Carrie Ketcham, store	
Public Library	

## CHAPTER VIII

### FAIRFIELD

EARLY FAIRFIELD—CITY GOVERNMENT—EARLY FACTS, MIKE CLANCY—HISTORY OF SCHOOLS—BANKS—RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES—STORES.

Fairfield is the new name of the old postoffice center, known as White Elm. In point of settlement and progress it ranks with its sister towns of Sutton, Harvard and Edgar. It is the center of trade for the southwestern townships of Clay County and the towns adjoining on the south and west. Its grain market is celebrated and the surrounding country peopled by an industrious class of citizens.

Fairfield town site was entered by Maximilian Reed in 1871 (northeast quarter Section 4, Township 5, Range 7). He sold this claim to A. B. Smith, H. J. Higgins, R. Bayly, Cornelius Dunn and sixteen others who proposed to establish a town here. Fairfield was surveyed for the St. Joe & Denver Railroad Company, September 11, 1874, by A. R. Buttolph, and the first sale of lots was made September 18, J. H. Epley buying the first lot offered. John Clancy was the pioneer settler on the town-site, he being manager of the boarding car, and later of the section house during the construction of the road. In June, 1872, the railroad company erected a depot east of the old settlement, this was followed by the section house; Jaynes' office and lumber yard followed in the fall, and then Chandler & Aikins carpenter shop. Early in 1873, T. E. Broderick purchased Jaynes' building and later, McPeak & Sons established a hardware store in the carpenter shop. In September, 1874, J. H. Epley and Smith & Spenceer moved their stores from the old to the new town-site; J. C. Clark established a lumber yard; D. McDonald a blacksmith shop; J. W. Small a real estate office and Hopper & Conrad a drug store.

A postoffice was established in the fall of 1871, at a point two miles northwest of the present town called White Elm, and kept by J. P. Scott, postmaster. The location of the office was changed and brought into town on June 27, 1873, at which time it passed into the hands of L. Brewer, who was commissioned postmaster.

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EAST SIDE OF MAIN STREET, FAIRFIELD, 1878



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The officers elected for the year 1879 were Trustees, J. E. Hopper, G. E. Glass, C. Palmer (chairman), J. R. Madison and H. Spencer, clerk, O. G. Maury, treasurer, John Biddle.

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In 1883 W. S. Randall was chairman; J. E. Broderick, J. E. Hopper, M. B. Gates and B. F. Rawalt, trustees, E. D. Judd, clerk; W. S. Prickett, attorney; C. L. Lewis, treasurer, and William Crawford, street commissioner.

In April 1884, Henry Spencer, M. B. Gates, S. J. Anthony, and A. J. Minor were elected trustees, while O. P. Alexander, W. Kentner and J. C. Clark received each forty votes for the fifth position on the board.

In 1885 Messrs. Randall, Gates, A. G. Sherwood, T. J. Loomis and D. Howe, were trustees; E. D. Judd, clerk; C. L. Lewis, treasurer; W. S. Prickett, attorney; Thomas Myers, marshal, and E. Gates, street commissioner.

The trustees elected in 1886 were M. B. Gates, A. G. Sherwood, A. A. Randall C. F. Shedd and Charles Lewis; E. A. Mitchell was appointed clerk; W. S. Prickett, attorney, and J. L. Epperson, treasurer.

The trustees elected in April, 1887, were O. C. Hubbell, Dr. A. J. Bacon, A. B. Smith, H. M. Goldsmith and C. L. Lewis; E. A. Mitchell was re-appointed clerk; T. J. Loomis, treasurer, and J. E. Broderick, marshal.

The election of April 3, 1888, resulted in the choice of the following named trustees: C. L. Lewis, B. J. Wright, M. B. Gates, George Avery and George J. Pielstick; James H. Brooks was appointed clerk; J. L. Epperson, attorney; J. E. Broderick, marshal; Elmer Gates, street commissioner, and T. J. Loomis, treasurer.

In April, 1889, J. E. Hopper was elected mayor; J. H. Brooks, clerk; T. J. Loomis, treasurer; C. M. Prickett, city engineer; Frank Phillips, A. R. Ray, S. H. Lewis and C. W. Potter, councilmen.

The roster of members who have so faithfully served upon the Board of Trustees of Fairfield since 1890 have been:

1890—C. L. Lewis, G. W. Avery, C. W. Potter, A. R. Ray, E. L. Lewis.

1891—D. B. Massie, Avery, Potter, Ira Titus, Lewis.

1892—E. L. Lewis, D. Howe, S. J. Loomis, Ira Titus.

1893—A. M. Babcock, Howe, Loomis, Geo. Glass, J. E. Broderick.

1894—H. A. Lusk, D. B. Potter, Glass, Broderick, W. B. Hayden.

1895—Hubbell, Potter, Broderick, D. F. Fisher, Hayden.

- 1896—O. C. Hubbell, J. A. Riddell, Broderick, Fisher, S. C. Thompson.  
 1897—Palmer, Riddell, Riggs, Shively and Thompson.  
 1898—Broderick, J. Baldis, Z. H. Riggs, Shively and Thompson.  
 1899—Joseph Kyne, Roberts, Weyenberg, Stiner and Parker.  
 1900—Joseph Kyne, F. D. Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1901—H. A. Lusk, Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1902—H. A. Lusk, Hastings, Weyenberg, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1903—Epley, Hastings, A. G. Corey, Byrkit and Parker.  
 1904—A. R. Ray, Hastings, Shively, P. L. Kissinger and Spencer.  
 1905—A. R. Ray, C. C. Parker, Shively, Kissinger and Spencer.  
 1906—A. R. Ray, T. P. Shively, C. C. Parker, Wm. Emrich and P. L.

Kissinger.

- 1907—W. W. McCashland, Shively, J. E. Wilcox, Emrich and Kissinger.  
 1908—McCashland, Shively, Wilcox, C. L. Lewis and M. D. Gates.  
 1909—J. M. Sanford, Shively, Wilcox, M. J. Spicer and M. D. Gates.  
 1910—C. L. Lewis, Kissinger, Wilcox, H. E. Potter and George Krell.  
 1911—D. B. Potter, B. D. Massie, F. W. Reed, H. E. Potter, and Krell.  
 1912—D. B. Potter, Massie, Reed, A. E. Kunselman and A. E. Hochman.  
 1913—Joseph Kyne, C. A. Reeder, W. A. Lewis, Kunselman and Hochman.  
 1914—Wm. Emrich, Kunselman, W. A. Lewis, E. A. Williams and Jos.

Johnson.

- 1915—Emrich, Kunselman C. J. Harris, E. A. Williams and Jos. Johnson.  
 1916—Emrich, Kunselman, Harris, Williams, and Guy McLaughlin.  
 1917—Emrich, Kunselman, C. Wayne Harvey, Dr. S. C. Adkins and Day.  
 1918—A. E. Kunselman, Stephenson, Harvey, Adkins and Day.  
 1919—E. H. Burnham, Stephenson, O. H. Berry, Adkins and Fred Hill.  
 1920—Wm. Ashby, W. D. Owens, F. L. Lewis, Allen Overturf and F. L.

Hill.

WHEN THE COURT HOUSE CORNER STONE WAS LAID IN 1918, THE FOLLOWING SKETCH OF FAIRFIELD CITY WAS FURNISHED BY CHARLES H. EPPERSON

The first building on the site of Fairfield was the section house built by the St. Joseph & Western Railway Company in 1872. John Clancy, one of the first section men, with his family, occupied the building, immediately after its completion, as a residence and boarding house.

The townsite of Fairfield was surveyed in 1874, John H. Epley bought the first town lot after the townsite was surveyed, and erected the first business house, a frame building, on Lot 7 of block 16 of the original town. Mr. Epley is still a resident of Fairfield.

D. P. Jaynes built the first dwelling house in the town in the spring of 1875. It was built on Lots 11 and 12 in Block 20 of the original town, as afterwards surveyed and platted.

Fairfield was incorporated as a village July 1st, 1878. The first village trustees were: Louis F. Fryar, Dennison Howe, John R. Maltby, John Epley and Walter S. Prickett.

On February 25, 1889, Fairfield became a city of the second class and the following named persons were the first city officers, viz.: John E. Hopper, mayor;



RESIDENCE OF JOHN E. HOPPER, FAIRFIELD, 1881



RESIDENCE OF JOHN E. HOPPER, FAIRFIELD, 1918



Hiram H. Brooks, clerk; Theodore J. Loomis, treasurer; Charles M. Prikett, engineer; Charles H. Epperson, attorney; James E. Broderick, marshal; D. Frank Phillips, Adam R. Ray, Stanley H. Lewis, Charles W. Potter councilmen.

The officers of the city at the present time are, viz.: Aaron E. Kunselman, mayor, Worth L. Minor, clerk, David B. Massie, treasurer, Hallie A. Sheets, engineer; Charles H. Epperson, attorney; John J. Harr, marshal; Miner A. Stephenson, C. Wayne, Stephen C. Adkins and Lewis F. Day, councilmen.

Fairfield built municipal water works and electric lighting plants in 1910.

Fairfield maintains a twelve-grade high school, carrying a normal training course, as well as courses in agriculture, home economics and manual training. The school employs 12 teachers. The present Board of Education is composed of James E. Broderick, president; Edwin H. Burnham, secretary; Charles H. Lewis, Ephraim L. Lewis, Dr. James R. Bell and Thornton P. Shively. Professor Warren H. Steinbach is Superintendent of Schools.

On this date, August 19, 1918, Fairfield has fifty-nine men and one woman serving in the army and navy of the United States in the great world's war, namely:

ARMY RED CROSS NURSE

Miss Clara McReynolds.

IN THE NAVY

George T. Hancock

William T. Schendt

Orin Stevens

Harve Wages

Caley Croft

Charles Leddy

Lewis L. Bayly

Marlin Hardin

IN THE ARMY

Capt. George H. Bentz

Lieut. Ward B. Spatz

Lieut. John H. Keplinger

Sergt. John Minick

Sergt. Thornton J. Lucado

Sergt. William H. Fowler

Sergt. James Coxbill

Sergt. Barney Bryant

Sergt. Elijah O. Ransom

Corp. John Henry Ehler

Corp. James Gay

Corp. Ray Stephenson

Corp. William M. Byrkit

Corp. John W. Williams

Corp. Rex Shubert

Lester L. Wages

Grayton Emrich

Chester Taylor

Percy O. Lung

Hubert E. Moore

Frank Hoyt

Glen H. Holdeman

Ivan Bentz

Lee Wheeler

Herbert Warren

Walter Green

Percy Gay

Peter Clardy

Melvin Cook

Henry G. Hohnstein

Joseph Skalka

Thomas Wooden

Vas Hajny

Gaylord T. Patton

Rollyn Burnham

Arthur D. Petry

Henry Trobough

Seaborn C. Garvin

Lyle Spear

Wayne Hayes

Ralph J. Anderton

Joseph Mock

Herbert Fitzke

Thornton Thornburg

Perry White

William J. Spicer

Irvin Bayly

Milton O. Lewis

Ernest R. McReynolds

Harry N. Bell

Claude Harris

The people of Fairfield have subscribed for the bonds and war savings stamps of the United States Government, since the present war began, to the sum of \$178,376.52, besides contributing liberally to the support of the National Red Cross Society and the Young Men's Christian Association in their war work.

On August 19th, 1918, the business interests of Fairfield were taken care of by the following concerns:

Chicago Lumber Company and the Fairfield Lumber Company, lumber and coal dealers; Co-Operative Association, Hines Grain Company and the Fairfield Grain Company, grain and coal dealers; J. F. Mills and Anna B. Elliott, hotels; C. L. Nye, Mrs. Ernestine Petry and Samuel Williams, restaurants; Ernestine M. Petry, bakery; John H. Stephens & Son, meat market; Melvin D. Gates, E. A. Williams and Albert Harr, grocery stores; Mershon & Mershon, general store; Ephraim H. Lewis, a department store; Guy McLaughlin and A. C. Hardin, furniture stores; Martin L. Byrkit, Jesse F. McMillan and Cornish Brothers, blacksmith shops; Wilber A. Lewis and Illingworth & Harvey, garages; Barney Bryant, livery stable; Citizens Bank and Farmers & Merchants Bank; Dr. Joseph E. Spatz and Dr. James R. Bell, physicians and surgeons; Dr. Stephen C. Adkins, dentist; Worth L. Minor and Charles H. Epperson, attorneys; Harry Burdette Wheeler and Frank L. Lewis, barbers; George Beany, candy factory; Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens and daughter, Ethel, millinery store; David B. Massie and Charles M. Pickett, real estate, loan and insurance agents; Frank M. and Harry W. Coleman, newspaper publishers; Ashby Hardware Company and Clarence A. Reeder, hardware stores; John V. Deines and Wages Brothers, drug stores; Thos. J. Fowler, harness shop; Benj. F. Woodhead and Wm. Dansill, feed stores; Myrtillo L. Jones, jewelry stores; Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Company, telephone exchange; Orpheum Theater, C. J. Harris, manager; Grant Calkins and Jessie F. Lindsay, photographers.

The spiritual needs of the community are ministered to by five churches—the Methodist Episcopal, in charge of B. F. Hutchins; the Congregational, in charge of W. A. Alcorn; the Christian, in charge of E. E. Mack; the Roman Catholic, in charge of Father John O'Sullivan, and the Church of Latter Day Saints, in charge of James R. Croft.

Fairfield has two railroads, the Burlington & Missouri River and the St. Joseph & Grand Island.

Fairfield maintains a public library, ample for the needs of the community, housed in a beautiful building erected in 1913. Miss Bertha Crawford is the librarian in charge. (Virginia Johnson, 1921.)

Alfred G. Corey is the postmaster. He is assisted in handling the mails by George A. Fowler, deputy; Joseph Edward Schendt, assistant; Walter Hogue, Leroy H. Griswold and Alphens Choat, rural carriers.

Fairfield maintains a chautauqua which brings to the community, each year, the best musical talent and lecturers of renown.

Fairfield has the following named societies, whose officers are as stated:

#### KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE, No. 156

Ephraim H. Lewis, Chancellor Commander; Harry W. Coleman, Vice





METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, 1878



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, 1918



Chancellor; Stephen C. Adkins, Keeper of Records and Seals; John Palmer, Prelate.

#### MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA, No. 676

Olney L. Campbell, Venerable Consul; Chas. Ruch, Advisor; Wilber L. Lewis, Banker; Samuel W. Williams, Clerk; Chas. Hessey, Escort; Guy McLaughlin, Watchman; Benj. Mulvaney, Sentry.

#### ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN

Henry Holdeman, Past Master Workman; Peter L. Kissinger, Master Workman; George W. Galdin, Financier and Recorder; Joseph Johns, Treasurer; George P. Whitman, Overseer; W. H. Schendt, Foreman.

#### INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS, LODGE No. 128

Walter Williams, Grand Noble; Guy McLaughlin, Vice Grand Noble; Harrison M. Stephens, Secretary; Lewis L. Day, Treasurer.

#### FAIRFIELD LODGE, No 84, ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Wilfred W. Ilgenfritz, Worshipful Master; Nels B. Larson, Senior Warden; Samuel M. Williams, Secretary; Thornton B. Shively, Treasurer; Edward H. Burnham, Senior Deacon; Melvin H. Garvin, Junior Deacon; Melvin D. Gates, Senior Steward; Guy McLaughlin, Junior Steward.

The above sketch examined and approved, this 19th day of August, 1918.

A. E. KUNSELMAN,

Mayor of the City of Fairfield.

Attest:

W. L. MINOR, City Clerk.

W. ILGENFRITZ, W. M., Fairfield Lodge, No. 84, A. F. & A. M.

Attest:

S. M. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

Besides the above history of Fairfield, the following from Fairfield was placed in the box for the court house cornerstone:

Copy of the Fairfield Auxiliary.

Photos of the following:

The first, second, third and present school buildings.

Street scene on west side of the main street, taken in 1878 and 1918.

Street scene on east side of Main street, taken in 1878 and 1918.

First store building in Fairfield.

Old Congregation and Methodist churches, and also the present buildings.

J. E. Hopper's house at time of completion and at the present time.

"Red Ribbon" building; the old I. O. G. T. building, used for years by Lou Emrich and others as a barber shop, first door south of present postoffice.

The city clerks of Fairfield since 1890 have been M. D. Gates, until 1896; H. A. Roberts, D. Mordock, C. J. Riddel, about a year apiece; in 1900 to 1904, Omer Hilton; in 1904, Walt Hague and C. H. Epperson; 1905, W. E. Underkoffer, who served until 1912, when T. P. Shively became clerk and served until 1917, when W. L. Minor became clerk for two years, and in 1919, L. F. Day and Geo. A. Fowler served, and in 1920 John W. Anderson became clerk.

## EARLY FACTS

Mike Clancy, who came to Fairfield in 1872, at a meeting of the Old Timers' Club held in 1914 in the basement of the library, furnished the information that when he came the railroad was finished this far, but not to Hastings. The section house was then completed, and the depot was under construction. D. P. Jayne built the first residence in spring of 1873, and that is now a part of Ellis Harr's residence, Lots 11 and 12, Block 20, Original Town. The old depot is now the freight house. It was first proposed to call the town Frankfurt, but there being another town in the State of that name, the name Fairfield was chosen.

The first preacher was a man by name of Holland, who preached in the depot. He was a telegraph operator. I. D. Newell was probably the first ordained preacher. George Potts was the first person who died in Fairfield. He was a section foreman. He died of pneumonia and was buried on the site where the school house now stands, Block 41, First Addition. The oldest building on Main Street in recent years is F. D. Wooden's shop, built by Scott, and long since remodeled. Lot 10, Block 13, Original Town. The oldest building as originally built standing in 1914 was Nye's restaurant, built by Maltby, Lot 7, Block 17, Original Town.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL

The first school taught in vicinity of Fairfield was a subscription school taught by Mrs. Alma Bacheller in a sod-house located on the south half of the southeast quarter of Section 4, Township 5, Range 7.

This school was taught in 1873. There were six pupils: Mike Clancy, Annie Rennie, Maggie Rennie, Willie Rennie, Polly Hall and Esther Hall.

Mrs. Bacheller also conducted a school in 1874, receiving as compensation for three months' work one hundred dollars. Eight pupils attended in this year.

The first school building was erected in 1873 at a cost of one thousand dollars. The first teacher in the public school building, was Mrs. Mary Willis. This building was used until 1881 when a frame building was erected on the site of the present building. This building cost five thousand dollars.

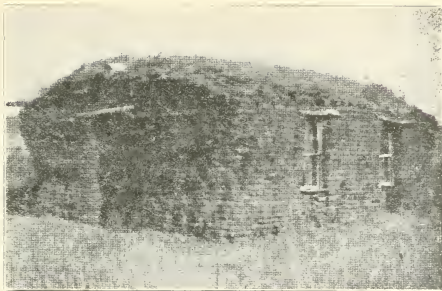
A. A. Randall was the first superintendent in the new building. He was followed by E. S. Detweiler, 1883; T. M. Hursh, 1884 to '87; Louis Morgan, 1888; J. R. McKee, 1889-'93; E. B. Sherman, 1894-'96; O. C. Hubbell, 1897-1903; C. W. Henry, 1903-'06.

During these years the school house had become old and far too small for the increased number of students, so in 1905 it was torn down and a large brick building erected at a cost of about \$20,500. This is the present school building, which Fairfield has every reason to be proud of.

It is equipped with steam-heat, city water and electric lights. It consists of fourteen rooms, five grade rooms, high school assembly room, four recitation rooms, office, manual training, and domestic science room, science laboratory, rest room and numerous halls and cloak rooms.

There are twelve grades, the twelfth being added in 1906.

In 1907 a normal training course was added and as a result, Fairfield has turned out some of the best teachers in Clay County.



FIRST SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD, 1873



FIRST FRAME SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD, 1874



THIRD SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD, 1881



THE PRESENT SCHOOL, FAIRFIELD, BUILT IN 1906



T. A. Blakesly became superintendent in 1906, J. E. Talbot in 1911, W. H. Steinbaugh in 1913 to 1921.

In 1912, music and agriculture were added to the course and in 1914, manual training and domestic science.

	1890	Rachel Littleton, Emma Madeen, Isabel Fodge, Jennie Elliott.	Richard Cooper.
	SCHOOL BOARD		TEACHERS
Benjamin McCartney, Sylvester Cosgrove, George A. Bentley, D. B. Gillett, G. M. Prentice, A. B. Smith.			E. B. Sherman, Mary Martin, Clara B. Musselman, S. B. Wilson, Fannie Case, Alicee Bell, J. T. Helton.
	TEACHERS	1893	
J. R. McKee, Fannie Sunderson, Ada Martin, Ada Darling, Lulu Downer, Gertrude Smith, Emma McKee, A. W. Evans.		SCHOOL BOARD	
		W. W. Dinsmore, C. H. Epperson, C. Lewis, Richard Cooper.	
	TEACHERS		1896
S. H. Lewis, S. W. Bireh, D. B. Gillett, Sylvester Cosgrove.		J. R. McKee, S. B. Wilson, Leona Hobson, Mary Martin, Clara B. Musselman, Rachel Littleton, Gertrude Smith, Isabel Fodge, Fannie Case, Flora Hait.	SCHOOL BOARD
			C. H. Epperson, C. L. Lewis, J. B. Teagarden, M. D. Gates.
	TEACHERS	1894	TEACHERS
J. R. McKee, Ada Martin, Fannie Dinsmore, Emma McKee, Louis McKee, A. W. Evans, Amy Shepherd, Ada Darling, Lulu Downer.		SCHOOL BOARD	J. N. Hursh, P. S. Tartar, Ethel McGrew, Clara B. Musselman, Mary Martin, Alicee Bell, J. T. Helton, Chester Wright, Alma Ewing.
		C. H. Epperson, C. L. Lewis, Richard Cooper, G. W. Avery, M. D. Gates.	
	TEACHERS		1897
Sylvester Cosgrove, C. L. Lewis, C. H. Epperson, Richard Cooper.		J. T. Helton, S. B. Wilson, Leona Hobson, Clara B. Musselman, Mary Martin, Rachel Littleton, Gertrude Smith, Bell Tingley, Fannie Case, Flora Hait.	SCHOOL BOARD
			C. H. Epperson, M. D. Gates.
	TEACHERS	1895	TEACHERS
J. R. McKee, Amy Shepherd, Lucile Downer, Gertrude Smith,		SCHOOL BOARD	Supt. E. B. Sherman, Prin. A. T. Hubbell, Mary Martin, H. G. Benedict, Alma Ewing, Clara B. Musselman, H. G. Gardner, Clara B. Willis, Lidia Shively, Leona Hobson.
		C. H. Epperson, C. L. Lewis,	
	TEACHERS		1898
			O. C. Hubbell, Mary Martin,

Alma Ewing,  
Clara B. Musselman,  
M. S. Hart,  
H. G. Gardner,  
Clara B. Willis,  
Lidia Shively,  
Leona Hobson.

1899

## SCHOOL BOARD

C. M. Prickett,  
TEACHERS  
Supt. O. C. Hubbell,  
Allie Helton,  
Leona Hobson,  
Alma Ewing,  
Clara B. Musselman,  
Andry Titus,  
Mrs. Anna Patton,  
May Martin,

1900

## SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Shaffer,  
TEACHERS  
O. C. Hubbell,  
Allie Helton,  
Andry Titus,  
Mrs. Alma Ewing,  
Mrs. Anna M. Patton,  
Lidia M. Shively,  
May Martin.

1901

## SCHOOL BOARD

T. J. Jacobs,  
TEACHERS  
O. C. Hubbell,  
Leona Hobson,  
Alma Ewing,  
Lidia Shively,  
May Martin,  
C. R. Brodriek,  
Allie Helton,  
Mrs. Anna Patton,  
Myrta Ransdell.

1902

## TEACHERS

O. C. Hubbell,  
Leona Hobson,  
Alma Ewing,

Lida M. Shively,  
Marie Kirby,  
Sabra Rider,  
Ora Phillips,  
Mary Martin,  
Anna Patton,

1903

## SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Epperson,  
P. L. Kissenger,  
TEACHERS  
O. C. Hubbell,  
Leona Hobson,  
Marie Kirby,  
Alma Ewing,

## SCHOOL BOARD

1904

C. H. Epperson,  
P. L. Kissenger,

## TEACHERS

Supt. C. W. Henry,  
Prin. Mrs. Henry,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Lizzie Davis,  
Alma Ewing,  
Marie Kirby,  
Sabra Rider,  
Ora Phillips.

1905

## SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Epperson.

## TEACHERS

Supt. C. W. Henry,  
Prin. Mrs. Alice Henry,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Lily Truman,  
Elinor Hakanson,  
Alma Ewing,  
Nettie Criley,  
Amy Shively,  
Jennie Kissenger.

1906

## SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Epperson,  
J. T. Jacobs,

## TEACHERS

C. W. Henry,  
Prin. Mrs. Alice Henry,

Bertha Wolf,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Elinor Hakanson,  
Maude Hayes,  
Clella Stofft,  
Mrs. Alma Ewing,  
Jennie Kissenger.

1907

## TEACHERS

Supt. T. A. Blakeslee,  
Prin. Inez Hawkins,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Elenor Hakanson,  
Maude Hayes,  
Clella Stofft,  
Alma Ewing,  
Lydia Woodbury,  
Minnie Bortis.

1908

## TEACHERS

T. A. Blakeslee,  
Inez Hawkins,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Lillian Truman,  
Elenor Hakanson,  
Maude Hayes,  
Clella Stofft,  
Effie Peabody,  
Lydia Woodbury,  
Alma Ewing.

1909

## TEACHERS

Supt. C. B. Toof,  
Prin. Inez Hawkins,  
Blanche Broderick,  
Elenor Hakanson,  
Clella Stofft,  
Lydia Woodbury,  
Effie Peabody,  
Lucille Wisner,  
Lurlie Lee,  
Alma Ewing.

1910

## TEACHERS

C. B. Toof,  
Inez Hawkins,  
Lydia Woodbury,  
Lucille Wisner,





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, 1878



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, FAIRFIELD, 1918



Blanche Broderick,  
Elenor Hakanson,  
Clella Stufft,  
Lurlie Lee,  
Mabel Lucado,  
Victoria Johnson,  
Alma Ewing,

1911

TEACHERS

J. E. Talbot,  
Gula Reed,  
Clella Stufft,  
Lydia Woodbury,  
Lurlie Lee,  
Mabel Lucado,  
Victoria Johnson,  
Alma Ewing,  
Hazel Mock,  
Miss Reed.

1912

SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Epperson  
S. C. Thompson  
T. Anawalt

TEACHERS

J. E. Talbot  
Helga Von Gordon  
Lydia Woodbury  
Clella Stufft  
Lurlie Lee,  
Mabel Lucado  
Victoria Johnson  
Alma Ewing  
Hazel Mock

1912-1913

SCHOOL BOARD

C. H. Epperson  
S. C. Thompson  
F. Glass

H. E. Potter  
E. H. Burnham  
W. W. McCashland

1913

HIGH SCHOOL

Supt. J. Talbot  
Prin. Miss Wyman  
Miss Von Gordon  
John Baer

Annabell Fletcher  
GRADES

Hazel Catterson  
Alma Ewing  
1914

SCHOOL BOARD

W. W. McCashland  
C. H. Epperson

H. E. Potter  
E. H. Burnham

Fred Glass

C. L. Athey

TEACHERS

Supt. W. H. Steinbaugh  
Prin. Helga Von Gordon

Mattie Hall

John W. Boehr

Annabel Fletcher

Bertha Denison

GRADES

Isaac Boehr

Allie Lee

Hazel Mock

Lurlie Lee,

Mrs. Alma Ewing

1914-1915

SCHOOL BOARD

W. W. McCashland

Joseph Kyne

F. Anawalt

TEACHERS

Supt. W. H. Steinbach  
Prin. Miss Von Gordon

Kathrine Nye

Helen Krause

J. H. Claybaugh

Edna Hewett

1915-1916

SCHOOL BOARD

Edgar Kissenger

F. Anawalt

TEACHERS

Supt. W. H. Steinbach  
Prin. Miss Von Gordon

J. H. Claybaugh

Cathrine Nye

Bertha Denison

Helen Krause

1916-1917

SCHOOL BOARD

J. E. Broderick

Edgar Kissenger

F. Anawalt

TEACHERS

Supt. W. H. Steinbach  
Prin. Miss Von Gordon

J. W. Vequist

Edna Drummond

Lorena Bixby

Mrs. Fern Dow

1917-1918

SCHOOL BOARD

J. E. Broderick

E. H. Burnham

Dr. J. R. Bell

T. P. Shively

C. S. Lewis

E. H. Lewis

TEACHERS

Supt. W. H. Steinbach  
Prin. Miss Von Gordon

J. W. Vequist

Mrs. Fern Dow

Neva Latta

Harlene Brewster

1918-1919

SCHOOL BOARD

E. H. Lewis

E. H. Burnham

C. L. Lewis

J. E. Broderick

Dr. J. E. Spatz

Mrs. Margurite Broderick

TEACHERS

Prin. W. H. Steinbach

Mrs. Edna Anderson

Mrs. Fern Dow

J. H. Biskie

Miss Brewster

Neva Latta

1919-1920

SCHOOL BOARD

E. H. Lewis

Dr. G. H. Bentz

C. L. Lewis

Dr. J. E. Spatz

Mrs. Margurite Harris	Dr. G. H. Bentz	Iola Grundstoff
TEACHERS		
Supt. W. H. Steinbach	Dr. J. E. Spatz	Sophia Smith
Prin. Alice Root	Marguerite Harris	Lloyd V. Prante
Mr. Biskie	T. P. Shively	Frieda Busboom
Miss Boyse	Henry Jacobs	Erva McFarlane
Miss Brewster	TEACHERS	
Maurice Colson	Supt. W. H. Steinbach	Marie Overturf
1921	Prin. Blanch Jimerson	Wilmer Samek
SCHOOL BOARD		
E. H. Lewis	L. W. Burley	Alma Ewing
	Bernice Bushee	

In April, 1884, the sum of \$17,000 was subscribed by twelve persons for the benefit of Fairfield College. The committee on collection comprised D. Howe, J. L. Epperson and M. B. Gates. In June, 1884, Prof. Hubbell resigned his position as principal of the Hastings schools and moved to Fairfield. On September 24, the Normal Institute was opened here by him. The College Directory, published in November, 1884, gives the names of T. P. Nixon, president of the board; W. T. Newcomb, financial agent and secretary; C. W. Henry, president of the faculty, and O. C. Hubbell, principal of the normal department.

The first annual commencement exercises were held June 3, 1885. In October, 1885, there were seventy students enrolled, where a year before the register contained only twenty-seven names. In April, 1886, the college board authorized the employment of an architect to draw plans for buildings, and in July the contract for the college building was let to W. B. Schmuicker for \$9,675. Work was at once begun, and, within that year, the large brick building was completed.

This school was later dropped after Cotner College got started at Bethany, its history being carried out in the State Historical Section.

#### BANKS

The first banking house was established May 11, 1881, by J. W. Small and W. S. Randall. It was called the Fairfield Exchange Bank, and is engaged in general banking business, with a paid up capital of \$3,000, and deposits amounting to about \$12,000.

On May 14, of that same year, a second monetary institution became established under the name of the Fairfield Bank, by a company composed of W. T. Newcomb, S. J. Anthony and O. C. Hubbell.

The First National Bank, successor to the Fairfield Bank, was organized April 28, 1886, and commenced business June 1, 1886, the stockholders being L. D. Fowler, president; George H. Cowles, vice-president; M. C. Joslyn, cashier; John E. Bagley and Ira Titus, assistant cashiers. The capital stock was \$50,000. W. T. Newcomb was elected president, June 6, 1888; Jacob Shively, vice-president; Ira Titus, cashier; S. C. Thompson, assistant cashier. On January 14, 1890, Jacob Shively was president; George J. Pielstick, vice-president; Ira Titus, cashier; S. C. Thompson, assistant cashier. The company own their building, which was built in the latter part of 1886.

The Citizens' Bank was established July 21, 1886, and opened August 2,



MAIN STREET, FAIRFIELD, LOOKING NORTH FROM FOURTH STREET, 1918



MAIN STREET, FAIRFIELD, LOOKING SOUTH FROM FOURTH STREET, 1918



that year. J. C. Hedge has served as president and C. L. Law, cashier, since that date.

They, with J. L. Epperson, J. Tweed, H. S. Good, E. J. Jenkins, J. Linzen and George F. Dickson, were the original stockholders. In a short time there were nineteen stockholders. The paid up capital was \$30,000, and the surplus undivided profits, \$3,500.

In 1897, J. C. Hedge was still president of the Citizens' State Bank and J. L. Epperson was vice-president, C. L. Lewis, cashier and Dr. J. E. Spatz and E. J. Jenkins, directors. In 1910, C. L. Lewis was president, C. H. Epperson, vice-president and T. P. Shively, cashier. The deposits were then \$191,000. Howard Johnson thereafter became cashier, and in 1916, with the officers the same otherwise, the deposits were practically the same. In 1921, the same officers are in charge, and deposits are \$275,000.

The second bank in Fairfield, the Farmers & Merchants, started in 1908. The officers, H. E. Potter, president, Joseph Kyne, vice-president and G. W. Cobel, cashier and W. B. Spatz, assistant cashier, showed in 1910, deposits of \$120,000. In 1916, the officers were C. W. Harvey, president; E. H. Burnham, vice-president, and C. Wayne Harvey, cashier, and deposits had reached \$130,000. In 1921, E. H. Burnham is president; Jos. Kyne, vice-president; Rolland Potter, cashier, and Anna Burnham, assistant cashier, and deposits are \$200,000.

#### RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Methodist Church congregations organized in 1873 and have remained an active factor in the community ever since. The Catholic congregation has flourished since 1897. The Christian Church antedates 1878. The Congregational Society can date its beginning back to 1872. In the past there has been Baptist and Christian activities here, but the first four named have been the active denominations.

The Masonic Society received its dispensation September 6, 1880, and of course has been active ever since. The Odd Fellows started very early. The G. A. R. began in 1880, and the A. O. U. W. in 1886. There have been active organizations for the W. R. C. The town has had a good Y. M. C. A. in its earlier days. In recent years a Castle of the Royal Highlanders, Knights of Pythias, D. of H., Royal Neighbors and M. W. A., have been active fraternal bodies.

#### FAIRFIELD'S STORES

The leading stores of Fairfield in 1895 were as follows: M. L. Jones, Racket Store; E. Bradwell, drugs; W. C. Readel, confectionery and bakery; T. J. Fowler, harness; George L. Yost; C. M. Crickett, insurance; Burk, drayman; Lindstrom and Stayner; A. Craig, tailor.

From 1897 until 1899: M. D. Gates, groceries; Arnold Brothers, clothing; Ed. A. Mitchell, clothing; Reggs & Cornelius, groceries; W. E. Close, clothing; W. E. Riggs, drugs; W. M. Harrow, confectionery and bakery; Jas. Lovell, City Meat Market; G. H. Wescott & Sons; S. H. Lewis Company, lumber and coal; Arnold & Lewis, clothing; Red Front Store, A. H. Latzke; Palmer & Lewis, The Old Reliable Store; Fairfield Commercial House, Breham & Hubbs;

Robert Brothers & Company, general store; D. B. Potter & Company, hardware; M. C. Keons, pharmacy; D. F. Phillips, hardware; Gress & Broderick, hardware; Porter & Broderick, hardware; C. B. Knights, harness, etc.; E. L. Bartholomew & Avery, implements; S. S. Renice, meat market; Palace Meat Market, Kissenberg & Weyenberg; Marshall Burt, studio; Miss J. F. Lindsay, art gallery; W. E. Close, stove and pump repairs; J. Howlgate, second hand store; City Barber Shop; A. E. Spencer; S. H. Lewis & Company, lumber; A. Bails Wagon Shop; Bratcher Brothers, livery; F. D. Hastings; Hall Insurance Company.

From 1900 until 1904: George J. Pielstick, groceries; W. L. Osborn; G. H. Wescott & Son; J. A. Baum, drugs; O. R. Raldefson, drugs; Riggs Corner Drug Store; Fairfield Department Store; E. H. Lewis.

#### THE 1920 BUSINESS ROSTER OF FAIRFIELD SHOWS

Dr. S. C. Adkins, dentist	Dr. D. F. Hastings
Anderson Clothing Co.	Hynes Grain Company
Ashby Hardware Co.	M. L. Jones, store
Auxiliary, newspaper	Ice Plant
Anan Elevator	Frank E. Lake, garage
B. & L. Oil Company	E. H. Lewis, store
Dr. J. R. Bell	W. A. Lewis & Co., garage
Dr. G. H. Bentz	Lindsay Studio
Blue Valley Bank	Guy McLaughlin, store
Calkins Studio	Mershon & Mershon
Chicago Lumber Co.	W. L. Minor, attorney
Citizens Bank	Motor Inn
Coleman's Printing Office	Petry's Cafe
W. M. Dansdill, feed store	Power House
J. V. Deines, druggist	C. A. Reeder, store
Depot Hotel	Jack Shubert, drayman
B. P. Elikor, garage	Dr. J. E. Spatz
C. H. Epperson, attorney	Stank Oil Company
Fairfield Land Co.	E. P. Stevens, milliner
Fairfield Grain Company	J. H. Stephens, meat market
Farmers & Merchants Bk.	Spring Ranch Grain & Supply Co.
Farmers Union Co-operative Assn.	Wage Brothers, drugs
Farmers Coal, Grain & Live Stock Assn.	Chas. White Shop
A. E. Harr, Store	E. A. Williams, store
A. C. Hardin, store	West Side Garage





FIRST FRAME BUILDING, FAIRFIELD, 1874



## CHAPTER IX

### EDGAR

EARLY EDGAR—WILLIAM WATTS—CITY GOVERNMENT—SCHOOLS—BANKS—CHURCHES  
—LODGES—REVIEW OF EDGAR IN 1914—STORES.

#### EDGAR

BY WILLIAM WATTS

The history of Edgar covers a period of fifty-one years.

The land where Edgar now stands was the home of prairie dogs, wolves and jackrabbits in 1870.

The St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad was built across here in July, 1872.

A postoffice had been established in the month before. A. J. Ritterbush was postmaster and the office was in his log store building outside the present town site.

S. T. Caldwell built the first store on the surveyed land.

In August, 1873, Rev. F. A. Penney erected a dwelling and in September of that year he organized the Methodist Church with nine members. Two of these charter members are living in Edgar at present Mrs. Hannah Carr and Mrs. J. W. Hart. This class was organized in the farm home of J. G. Graham southeast of town.

The same fall the first school house was built near the present site. It was a one-story frame building. The honor of being the first teacher in Edgar is disputed between Mrs. Julia Pond and Ira Hodges. The salary was \$25 a month. Then followed as teachers: W. R. Fuller, George Murdock, Al. Jones, Miss Alletta Dixon (Mrs. S. F. Pomeroy), and Mrs. Minor.

In 1879 the first high school building was erected with W. H. Gerdts as principal and George W. Ferree in charge of the second room. It was at this time the grades were established. The next year H. K. Wolfe (Doctor Wolfe, well known for many years as a Nebraska university instructor) was chosen principal at a salary of \$60. Miss Mary Warren and Miss Mary Gray were the other teachers, the latter having charge of the primary department. Professor Wolfe established the first school library in Edgar.

Then came Lloyd G. Spencer, next R. L. Marsh and afterwards T. C. Canine.

In 1884 Alfred Bates was at the head of the school. The school had now grown from an enrollment of twelve to one hundred and eighty and had an assistant principal, Miss Louie McKee, and three grade teachers, Miss Frances Hart (now the widow of Dr. J. F. Edgar), Miss Carrie Kirk (Mrs. Lute Adams), and Miss Allie Carr (Mrs. N. E. Jacobs), who taught the first primary department for fourteen years.

In 1885 Marian Thrasher established the first high school course.

The postoffice, as previously stated, was outside of Edgar, but in 1873 it was located in S. T. Caldwell's store (where Ferree Bros. & Walley are now in business) and W. A. Gunn was postmaster. He erected a small building across the street east from Caldwell's store and moved the office there. He was succeeded in 1876 by W. J. Wait, who was followed the same year by M. J. Hull. In 1887 J. W. Carson was appointed.

Among the early business houses of Edgar we note in 1873 S. T. Caldwell, Charles E. Green, J. G. & C. F. Glazier, general stores; T. A. Hendricks, drugs; W. Rickharts, harness. In 1874 J. Carlon and W. F. Whitmore opened blacksmith shops and shortly after James Cranz & A. Sherwood succeeded Whitmore and went into the livery business. Cyrus Stayner opened a furniture store; E. E. Howard, hardware; S. J. Whitten, lumber; J. D. Beck, blacksmith; George Wilson, flour and feed. Up to this time the nearest mill was at Fairbury or Beatrice. This feed store was a great convenience, as grain could be exchanged for the ground product.

In 1875 J. W. Gunn erected the first hotel. In 1878 F. Weidman bought it. J. W. Wilkerson erected a two-story frame building on the site of the present Stover hotel and in the fall of 1880 sold to James Cutler, who in turn sold to C. G. Hayes, who built a large addition to the house. He leased it to Mr. Hazelbaker and afterwards it came into the possession of R. Stover.

"The Edgar House" was built by C. F. Barrington in 1877 and afterward called the "Sherman House." Another hotel was built by C. Serini in 1877.

Edgar was incorporated in March, 1875, with J. G. Glazier, A. Sherwood, S. J. Whitten, Henry Gipe and E. E. Howard as village officers.

The first bank was started in 1875-76 by C. P. Packer and J. W. Kernohan and sold out in two years. They went to Grand Island.

The Edgar bank was established in 1879 by J. B. Dinsmore, E. E. Howard, I. V. Howard and L. Grimes.

In 1883 the Clay County Bank was established by H. W. Stout, G. W. Updyke and C. A. Voorhees. Both banks are doing business here yet.

We have noted that the Methodist Church was organized in 1873, but the church was not built until 1880.

The Baptists organized in 1874 and held meetings in the school house, but the society only existed three months and was not reorganized till 1877. The church was erected in 1881.

The Presbyterians organized in July, 1875, with nine members, and early in 1877 completed the first church building in Edgar. Mrs. A. J. Long is the only living charter member.

The Protestant Episcopal Church was built in 1888 where Cecil Stout's residence later stood.

The Christian Church was organized in 1885 and the building erected the next year.

The Swedish Lutheran Church was built in 1884.

The first lodge organized in Edgar was the A. F. & A. M. in 1877; the I. O. O. F. was organized in 1880; A. O. U. W., 1885; W. C. T. U., 1885; Edgar Commercial Club, 1887; M. W. A., 1888.

The newspapers have not been mentioned thus far. In 1875 F. M. Comstock published the "News-Journal" but in a short time it fell into the hands of W. J.



TWO VIEWS OF MAIN STREET, EDGAR



Waite. Soon after he took charge his office was entered and most of the material stolen.

In 1877 H. A. Day and C. E. Keith established the "Edgar Leader." The next year S. T. Caldwell and E. E. Howard purchased the material and sold to M. J. Hull. With this Mr. Hull began the "Review" in 1878. "The World" was established in 1886 by Shafe Kautzman. His material was afterward sold to Smith and Ward and moved to Clay Center.

Near this time H. G. Lyon established the "Edgar Times." After he left, Mr. and Mrs. Brinniger published a paper for a time; the Osborne sisters started "The Edgar Sun" but did not publish it long; a year or two later H. B. Rousey started the "Sun," which he sold to Dr. T. E. Casterline in 1907. In 1911 Dr. R. W. E. Casterline bought his father out and is still owner.

In 1885 Doctor Casterline started "The Edgar Post," which he sold to James McNally in 1892. There have been changes in ownership since but "The Post" is still doing business at the same old stand.

There are many more items of interest which might be mentioned in making up an account of the growth of our city, for there is material enough left out to double the history already written. As we look about on our splendid schools, prosperous business establishments, good roads, electric lights, comfortable churches, pleasant homes, towering trees and beautiful lawns, it seems hard to realize that within the memory of Edgar citizens not yet fifty years old the place where Edgar now stands was wild prairie, across which farmers drove with wagons drawn by ox teams, hauling logs from the Blue to build their houses; that there were only two places of human habitation between here and Sutton; that in the absence of bridges across the Sandy, settlers were sometimes obliged to swim their teams and float their wagon boxes across the swollen stream; and that women were frequently wakened at dead of night to aid their husbands and brothers to save their homes from the ravages of wild prairie fires sweeping unchecked for miles across the uninhabited land.

And yet some people sigh for the "good old days!"

#### THE FIRST VILLAGE ELECTION IN EDGAR

Possibly some of the citizens of Edgar would be interested in knowing how the first election held in Edgar went and who the officers were. The following was received from W. J. Waite of Exeter, he sending it to the city clerk thinking that possibly it might have some historic value. It was in March, 1875, that the county officers upon petition declared Edgar to be a body corporate and John Glazier, A. Sherwood, S. J. Whitten, Henry Gipe and E. E. Howard were appointed trustees of said town. F. M. Brown, who is now editor of the Sutton Register, was the county clerk. The following is a verbatim copy of the paper received.

At an election held in the Town of Edgar, County of Clay and State of Nebraska, for the election of Town Trustees the following named persons voted:

- |                    |                  |                     |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Henry Gipe.      | 6 A. H. Curtis.  | 10 A. W. Gipe.      |
| 2 A. Sherwood.     | 7 C. E. Green.   | 11 M. W. Gipe.      |
| 3 Wm. J. Waite.    | 8 A. S. Briggs.  | 12 John G. Glazier. |
| 4 S. J. Whitten.   | 9 G. M. Mordock. | 13 J. P. Hawkins.   |
| 5 M. S. Edgington. |                  |                     |

We hereby certify that the above is a correct list of those who voted at this election.

Henry Gipe.	M. S. Edgington, Clerk.
A. Sherwood.	J. P. Hawkins.
A. H. Curtis.	

At an election held in the town of Edgar, Clay County, Nebraska, May 3, A. D. 1875, the following persons received the number of votes placed opposite their names for town trustees:

John Glazier .....	11	Henry Gipe .....	12
E. E. Howard .....	12	J. P. Hawkins .....	3
S. J. Whitten .....	11	A. H. Curtis .....	1
A. Sherwood .....	12	Frank Whitmore .....	1
Asa Gipe .....	1	Cory Glazier .....	1

We hereby certify that the above is a true return of the election.

M. S. Edgington, Clerk.	Henry Gipe.
J. P. Hawkins.	A. H. Curtis.
A. Sherwood.	

(Then follows the oath of office of judges and clerks of election signed by Henry Gipe, A. Sherwood and A. H. Curtis, judges, and M. S. Edgington, clerk. Below this we find):

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of May, A. D. 1875, Cyrus Stayner, Justice of the Peace.

(The oath of office of J. P. Hawkins was before M. S. Edgington, Clerk of Election.)

Edgar is made up of all kinds of people shaped to an enterprising community by the same spirit of progress and enterprise which first suggested the building of a village at this point. There are no church towers here with bells which tolled great-grandfathers to their graves; no long lines of tombs in which lie the virtues of ancestors known only by tradition; no gray-haired friars rising up like statues before the memory; no grim sexton looking into some new-made grave waiting for the latest addition to his inanimate company; nothing of the dead past. Merchants and tradesmen are all modern, scarcely taking time to die, pushing ever onward building and rebuilding, always active. Non-existent in 1870, it has nothing of age, but claims all the grit and reality of youth.

The town site was preempted by Henry Gipe for the Nebraska Land & Town Site Company, to whom he deeded one-half the quarter-section upon which the town was platted. The survey was made by A. R. Butolph, in May, 1873, the railroad being completed in July, 1872. The postoffice was established in June, 1872, with A. J. Ritterbush, master, who kept it in his log store building adjoining the limits of the survey.

Gipe erected the first house—a sod house—and in 1872 the depot and section house were erected by the railroad company. Charles McGowan kept a boarding house; S. T. Caldwell had opened a store here before Ritterbush, or about the time of survey. This was Mr. Rouzey's dwelling in 1885. In August Rev. F. A. Penny erected a dwelling, and C. E. Green built a store room and placed therein a general stock. In September C. F. and J. G. Glazier's general store was opened, and T. A.



Hendrick's drug store established. The following winter, 1873-74, W. Rickhart's harness shop was opened. Early in 1874 J. Carlin and W. F. Whitmore erected a blacksmith shop for James Cranz, and A. Sherwood's shop was opened shortly after; Cyrus Stayner's furniture store, Whittemore's livery and A. B. Canfield's general store, were opened before the close of summer.

In the fall of 1874 E. E. Howard established his hardware store; S. J. Whitten, a lumber yard; J. D. Beck, a blacksmith shop, and George Wilson, a flour and feed store. J. H. Brown became a partner of Caldwell about this time, and in 1880 assumed control of the business; W. R. Fuller's book and jewelry store was established about this time; J. W. Carson's repair and jewelry shop was opened in 1877, and G. W. Tooker's harness shop was established; in 1879 the Gardner Brothers opened a grocery store here, and in 1884 J. C. Gardner started a like establishment; Mrs. F. F. Craiger established a millinery store here in 1880; William Saxton's clothing store was opened in 1880, and Mordock Brothers Grocery in the fall of 1881, they having purchased J. H. Brown's grocery department; in 1884 Gee & Pinckard became owners of Howard's pioneer harness shop; C. W. Wiley of J. D. Whitten's furniture store, started in 1874 by C. Y. Stayner.

J. T. Donohue sold the Edgar Marble Works to Henry Dare in January, 1885; H. F. Grant established his insurance office in 1882 and Chandler & Dalton their real estate office in 1884; O. A. Avery began business in 1879; D. R. Hughes (Walley & Hughes) in 1884; Thomas Harvison in 1881; Dubling & Sons in 1884; John Whitten in 1880; Whittlesey & Wright (successors of Casterline & Roberts) in 1885; Palmer's barber shop in 1883; J. M. Cobb in 1876; Joseph Henninger in 1876; N. B. Olesen in 1881; Doctor Anderson in 1879; Attorney W. B. Good in 1884; Attorney S. W. Christy in 1880; S. A. Searle in 1880. Mrs. G. A. Hull opened the green house in 1883; Thomas Hazelbaker, the Commercial Hotel at the same time; J. P. Nelson his insurance office in 1879; J. W. Gunn his hotel in July, 1884; Frank Negei his tailoring house in 1884. The Miller and Jackman brick yards, north of Edgar, commenced operation in 1886.

Anderson Eller's sorghum factory, three and one-half miles south of Edgar, was producing one hundred gallons of syrup per day in the fall of 1885.

The Edgar Brick & Tile Company was organized in 1887. They erected a plant with a capacity of about 2,000,000 bricks per annum, using the celebrated Cotton Down Central Draft kilns. The clay at this point is admirably adapted for the manufacture of brick and tile, and is of unlimited supply. Charles Klingerman was president and S. J. Whitten secretary. The Edgar Creamery Company was organized in April, 1887, with H. F. Grant, M. Hart, George H. Van Antwerp, O. A. Avery and G. M. Mordock, members.

Commodious and substantial buildings were erected and furnished with all the modern appliances for butter-making at a total cost of over \$5,000. The building was heated by steam, and all the machinery connected therewith was run by steam. The Edgar Kraut and Pickle Manufacturing Company was organized in 1888 and buildings completed in 1889. The Edgar Canning Company was organized in 1888 and the work of erecting their large buildings entered upon. The Edgar skating rink was erected by Charles Hansen in the fall of 1884. During the roller skate craze the institution flourished.

The St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad was built from St. Joseph to Hastings in 1872, and thence to Grand Island in 1876. On October 15, 1873, J. G.

Prosser took charge of the depot at Edgar as agent of the St. Joseph & Grand Island Railroad, relieving Agent Anderson. Andrew Ritterbush was the first agent in 1872. Mr. Prosser held the position until August 15, 1889, when A. B. Ford was appointed, Mr. Prosser holding the office of assistant. The change was made under the company's new rules, requiring the agent to be an actual operator. The depot building was completed in November, 1888. Interiorly its finish, in hard pine, was perfect.

The Nebraska & Colorado Railroad was built in 1886. A branch runs south from Edgar to Superior where it connects with the Republican Valley Road. In the fall of 1886 W. H. Gates was appointed first agent at Edgar. D. W. Van Horn succeeded him in March, 1888.

In the summer of 1875, J. W. Gunn erected a small frame house, which he used as a hotel until the spring of 1878, at which time it came into the possession of F. Weidman, who was soon after succeeded by J. W. Wilkerson. During Wilkerson's ownership of this house he erected a large two-story hotel adjoining it, and in the fall of 1880 disposed of both houses to James Cutler, in whose possession they remained one year, when he, in turn, sold out to C. G. Hayes. During the spring of 1882 the old hotel was moved back and on its former location a large addition was built to the main house. The Edgar House was built in August, 1877, by C. F. Barrington and W. C. Oveleman. Several additions were afterward made to it, and in 1881 the name was changed and called the Sherman House. During September of 1877 another hotel was built by C. Sirini and given the singular name "Try Our House." The Commercial Hotel was carried on by Hazelbaker until March, 1889, when R. Stover took charge. The Central Hotel was refitted in the fall of 1888 and opened by W. M. Parish.

Edgar postoffice was established in June, 1872, before even an attempt was made to start a town. It was kept by Andrew J. Ritterbush in a log cabin, which he had built on his claim, and which stood just outside of where the line of the town site afterward was surveyed. Soon after the town site was located, W. A. Gunn received the appointment of postmaster, and the office was brought into the town, and was kept in Caldwell's store room about three years, when it was removed to a small building which Gunn erected especially for a postoffice, across the street from Caldwell's store. After holding the position of postmaster for about three years, Mr. Gunn retired, and was succeeded, in February, 1876, by W. J. Waite, whose term of office was somewhat brief. In about nine months, owing to some discrepancies in his financial accounts, in which his bondsman was called upon to make up the deficit, amounting to a large sum, he was expelled from the office and the appointment given to M. J. Hull, in September, 1876, who took charge of the office on the 12th day of October of that year. With Mr. Hull's incumbency, a change was made in the location of the office to a small frame building belonging to Cyrus Stayner, which, in 1882, was used as a barber shop. Shortly following, Hull purchased Caldwell's old store room, in which he kept the office, but which he subsequently moved back, and was used as the Edgar Review printing office in 1882. About two years since Mr. Hull purchased the old schoolhouse, which he moved to the site on which the printing office had formerly stood, and the office was brought into that building; in this was also kept a jewelry and stationery and notion store. In July, 1884, the office was raised to the rank of third class. In February, 1887, J. W. Carson, was appointed by the democratic administration.

Since Carson's term under Cleveland, Jas. McNally, J. W. Boden and John Walley served and in 1921 J. W. Carson is again postmaster.

## CITY GOVERNMENT

The petition asking the incorporation of Edgar was presented March 15, 1875, and granted. John Glazier, A. Sherwood, S. J. Whitten, Henry Gipe and E. E. Howard were appointed trustees.

Since then the following persons have been elected to office under the village government for the various years up to the year 1890.

1876—Trustees, S. J. Whitten (chairman), J. H. Brown, J. G. Prosser, E. E. Howard and J. P. Hawkins; clerk, A. B. Canfield; treasurer, G. M. Mordock; marshal, J. P. Hawkins.

1877—Trustees, E. E. Howard, J. H. Brown, J. G. Glazier (chairman), W. Ovleman, O. Crossman; clerk, A. B. Canfield; treasurer, G. M. Mordock; marshal, Henry Gipe.

1878—Trustees, A. B. Canfield (chairman), A. Curtis, J. G. Glazier, J. F. Evans, S. J. Whitten; clerk, J. Converse; treasurer, I. V. Howard.

1879—Trustees, A. B. Canfield, L. Porter (chairman), S. J. Whitten, M. S. Edgington (attorney), J. H. Brown; clerk, C. H. Treat; treasurer, M. S. Edgington; marshal, W. Shelton. At the next meeting of the board of trustees the appointment of clerk was reconsidered, and A. H. Jones was appointed clerk and marshal. In July, 1879, Edgar Precinct asked permission to vote on the question of granting \$62,000 aid to the Nebraska & Kansas Railroad branch from the town of Edgar to the town of Superior.

1880—Trustees, J. G. Prosser (chairman), J. H. Brown, J. G. Glazier, S. J. Whitten (treasurer), E. E. Howard; clerk, A. B. Canfield; marshal, J. R. Pond.

1881—Trustees, E. E. Howard, O. A. Avery, J. G. Glazier, S. J. Whitten (treasurer), J. G. Prosser (chairman); clerk, C. H. Traet; attorney, S. A. Searly; marshal, J. Downer.

1882—Trustees, H. F. Grant (chairman), J. G. Glazier, C. F. Barrington, J. H. Brown (treasurer), J. D. Whitten; clerk, C. H. Treat; attorney, M. S. Edgington; marshal, H. E. Wells.

There was only a nominal change in the board in 1883.

The board of 1884 was reelected in April, 1885—J. G. Prosser, H. F. Grant, M. Hart, W. H. Graham and O. E. Reynolds. W. B. Good was chosen clerk; S. W. Christy, attorney, and T. B. McClellan, marshal. The anti-license ticket nominated in March, 1886, comprised J. P. Johnson, S. J. Whitten, J. W. Carson, G. M. Mordock and C. Klingerman. The Edgar ticket comprised J. A. Roberts, J. L. Ward, O. J. Merrill, D. R. Hughes and C. G. Hayes. On April 6th the former ticket was elected. J. G. Glazier, Mrs. P. Gill, T. E. Casterline, E. E. Howard, M. J. Hull and B. L. Olds, vice O. E. Reynolds, were elected members of the school board. George Utz was superseded as marshal by J. W. Gunn; E. E. Howard, treasurer. Marshal Gunn made a capture of two Swedes and presented them to Judge Fuller, but a jury acquitted the accused.

In 1887 J. G. Prosser was mayor; T. Harvison, J. C. Gardner, C. M. Keand, T. Whitten, M. J. Hull and C. Klingerman, councilmen; J. P. Nelson, clerk; J. G. Glazier, treasurer; M. S. Edgington, engineer; Frank Post, marshal, and W.

R. Fuller, police judge. The "People's" and the anti-license candidates were almost equally matched in this contest. J. G. Prosser was chosen school trustee for two years; J. G. Glazier for three years, and C. A. Voorhees for three years.

In April, 1898, Mayor Grant received one hundred and twenty-nine votes and Prosser ninety-eight for the office of mayor. D. R. Hughes, C. F. Glazier and J. W. Hart were elected councilmen; M. S. Edgington, engineer, and J. G. Glazier, treasurer. On March 30th, the vote on the question of issuing water bonds showed only seven votes against the proposition. The old school board was reelected.

In April, 1899, T. B. McClellan was elected mayor over George H. Van Antwerp, the anti-license candidate; C. H. Treat, police judge; J. W. Boden, clerk; M. S. Edgington, engineer; Frank Young, C. G. Hays, Joseph Henninger and J. B. Seamans, councilmen.

After an unfortunate gap of twelve years following, 1890, for which period the compilers could not locate the official record of Edgar, the roster of city officials of this municipality show the service of the following as members of the Board of Trustees:

1902—John W. Boden, O. J. Merrill, John W. Watson, E. M. Cleft and Samuel Chandler.

1903—Cleft, Merrill, Watson, J. W. Hart and Chandler.

1904—R. L. Avery, Henninger, Watson, Hart and S. C. Beck.

1905—Avery, Henninger, Watson, Hart and Beck.

1906—P. G. Grimm, Henninger, Watson, G. R. Woods, and Geo. Wheeland.

1907—Grimm, C. P. Avery, Watson, Woods and Wheeland.

1908—Woods, C. D. McInay, J. J. Keefe, Avery, Wheeland.

1909—J. W. Watson, McInay, Keefe, H. W. Jackson and F. W. Carlson.

1910—A. R. Ocker, J. L. Gardner, C. D. McInay, Jackson and Carlson.

1911—Ocker, Gardner, McInay, W. J. Boomer, and Carlson.

1912—Ocker, George Mitchell, McInay, A. J. Lepper, and C. E. Caldwell.

1913—Ocker, Mitchell, McInay, Lepper and Caldwell.

1914—G. R. Woods, E. W. Clack, Geo. Adkins, Lepper and Caldwell.

1915—Woods, Clack, Adkins, Lepper and Caldwell.

1916—S. L. Denton, W. S. Koher, F. A. Westering, John Harvison and E. A. Anderson.

1917—Wm. Shively, Koher, Westering, Harvison and John H. Baker.

1918—F. A. Westering, Koher, C. P. Avery, Harvison and Baker.

1919—Westering, J. L. Ward, W. B. Graul, G. A. Adkins and Glenn Somerville.

1920—R. T. Jones, Ward, Graul, Smock and Sommerville.

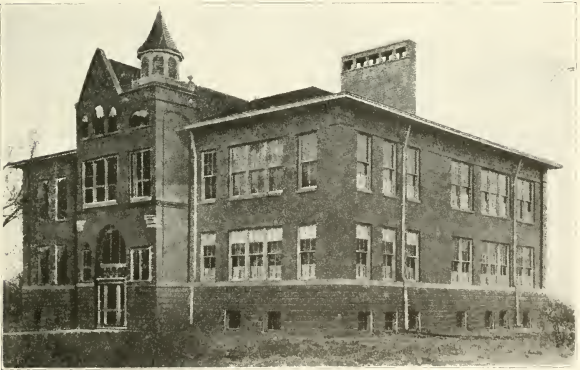
The clerks in the past two decades have been R. L. Avery, J. G. Walley, J. Robert H. Olsiene, H. B. Rousey, J. W. McCue, J. H. Gardner, Earl C. Riekel, who served almost ten years, and C. S. Voorhees, present clerk.

#### SCHOOLS

The first school building of Edgar was built on the site of the new school building. It was a one room frame, and stood just east of the Times printing office. School was opened in this building in the fall of 1873. The first teacher was Ira Hodges, who received the munificent salary of twenty-five dollars a month.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, EDGAR



HIGH SCHOOL, EDGAR



He afterwards went in the hardware business at Adams, Oregon. Following him in 1874 was W. R. Fuller, who taught six months for \$200. He later became the well known book seller of Edgar. Then came George Mordock in 1875, later going into the grocery business. In 1876 Al Jones wielded the birch, and from all accounts he did it right well. One boy says that was about all he did. Mr. Jones took up carpentering in Rochester, New York. In the spring of 1877-78 Aletta Dixon (Mrs. Pomeroy) was teacher. In 1877-78, Mrs. Minor (deceased) was teacher, and it is said a most excellent one. Then came in 1879, Prof. G. W. Ferree, one of the oldest and best known teachers. In 1879 the high school building was erected, and J. D. Gerdts was installed as the first principal. The old buildings were sold to M. J. Hull for \$150. It became a graded school with two assistant teachers. Mr. Gerdts resigned in the spring, and Professor Ferree finished that year. In 1880 Professor Wolfe was chosen principal, with a salary of sixty dollars a month. Mary Warren and Mary Gray were assistant teachers. He it was who inaugurated the school library that later became such an important coeducator in the school. He later went to Germany, and fitted himself for a university professorship. In 1881 came Professor Spencer, who resigned in the middle of the year and returned to Ohio, and his place was filled by Professor Marsh, a Methodist Episcopal minister.

In 1882-83 Prof. T. C. Canine, later a physician at Shickley, was principal. The schools of Edgar were presided over in 1884 by Alfred Bates, with Louie McKee, Frances Hart, Carrie E. Kirk, assistants, and Allie Carr. Up to this date the pupils had increased from twelve to one hundred and eighty, and the teachers from one to five. In August, 1885, Prof. M. Thrasher was elected principal. He at once introduced the high school course, which afterwards was scrupulously followed. He was a university graduate, of twenty years' experience in high schools, seminary and college.

The schools of Edgar owe a debt of gratitude to the memorable services of a few faithful citizens who have spent many years of faithful service upon membership of the Board of Education. S. W. Christy, from 1890, down to 1912, some two decades, rendered regular faithful attendance. C. A. Voorhees was another member who served through the '90s and down to 1912 and rendered contemporaneous service to that of Mr. Christy. A third term of service which started in the '90s and lasted until 1907 was that of J. H. Gardner. With three such steady veterans, there are but few changes to note in the first two decades of Edgar's educational history. Early in the decade of 1900 to 1910, E. E. Howard began service, H. C. Hart had served from 1898 and stayed on until 1914. During the '90s, S. J. McCue served six years and John Shaw, three years with Christy, Voorhees and Gardner. Between 1900 and 1905, Galt and E. G. King served short periods. Will Brookley, John Sugden and Galt began terms in 1905. So the Board in 1906 comprised the three veterans, Christy, Voorhees, Gardner and their slightly junior associate, H. C. Hart with Brookley and Sugden. In 1907, A. D. Cannon succeeded Gardner for a year and gave way in 1908 to Frank Carlson. In 1909, John W. Watson succeeded Brookley. In 1910 the Board was comprised of Voorhees, Christy, Hart, Sugden and W. E. Montgomery and J. S. Winston. J. F. Shaw, succeeding Sugden was the only new member in 1911, and 1912 saw two new arrivals, G. R. Woods vice Voorhees, and P. A. Caldwell, vice Christy. In 1913, Will Brookley succeeded Caldwell and returned to the Board, remaining

until 1916. Mrs. Armstrong succeeded Montgomery in 1914 and S. J. McCue returned to the Board, vice Shaw. In 1915, Mrs. Breckenridge succeeded Hart. In 1916, Mrs. King and Will Gass came onto the Board. In 1917 the membership remained the same, Woods, Mrs. Breckenridge, Mrs. King, Winston, Gass and McCue. In 1918, Gass started a second term, with five new associates, Avery, Boomer, Hill, Adkins and Koher. The latter, one year later gave way to Brookley, and the Board in 1920 was Avery, Boomer, Koher, who returned a year later, Gass Brookley and F. Voorhees.

#### BANKS

The first financial institution established at Edgar was a bank started by C. P. Packer and J. W. Kernohen. After running the institution about two years, it was sold out and removed to Fairfield, the original owners becoming interested in the Grand Island Banking Company, located in the city of Grand Island.

The Edgar Bank was established by J. B. Dinsmore, E. E. Howard, I. V. Howard and L. R. Grimes, as the firm of Dinsmore, Howard & Company, in September, 1879. In 1880 Grimes retired from the institution, and in 1884 the Howard Brothers were sole proprietors and the capital was \$40,000.

Clay County Bank was established in January, 1883, with H. W. Stout, C. A. Voorhees and G. W. Updike. Since January, 1886, Messrs. Stout and Voorhees have been proprietors.

The brick building in which the business of the bank was carried on, was built in December, 1882. In 1921, C. A. Voorhees is president, F. A. Voorhees cashier and C. S. Voorhees assistant cashier, with deposits of \$310,000.

The State Bank of Edgar was organized September 23, 1889, with a capital of \$25,000. The notice of incorporation was signed by Ezra E. Howard, G. W. Clawson, I. V. Howard and S. A. Walker. In the nineties I. V. Howard was still president; G. W. Clawson, vice president; and E. E. Howard, cashier.

In 1910, H. C. Hart was president; Grace L. Walker, vice president; and Butler Hart, cashier, with \$170,000 deposits. W. H. Banwell became cashier a few years later.

In 1921, A. H. Warren is president; E. W. Clack, cashier; W. W. Clack and L. Strawser, vice presidents; Glen Martin, assistant cashier. Deposits, \$300,000.

#### CHURCHES

The Methodist Class of Edgar was organized with nine members by Rev. F. E. Penny, in September, 1873, within the section house or the farm house of J. G. Graham. Early in 1874 the depot was used for worship. In the fall of that year services were held in the schoolhouse, which they helped the Presbyterians to build, and later still erected their own hall for worship. Rev. C. A. Lewis was pastor in 1884. J. R. Woodcock came in the fall of 1885. In January, 1886, a debt of \$750.00 was paid off. The Methodist Episcopal Church at Edgar was dedicated in March, 1880, by C. B. Lenfest.

The Catholic congregation assembled here first in 1872, and for a few years was in active existence. The membership, however, was small.

The English Protestant Episcopal Church dates back to December, 1886, when



a few ladies organized St. Mary's Guild. In June, 1887, a society of twelve members was formed by Bishop Worthington, and soon steps were taken to erect a house of worship. On April 1, 1888, services were held in the new building by Rev. A. F. Whitten, and on April 22d the Bishop presided at the dedication services.

The Baptist Church was originally organized by Rev. J. W. Eller, June 27, 1874, within a schoolhouse. After a term of three months the organization ceased to be effective and it was not revived until January 28, 1877, when Rev. J. N. Webb organized a society of thirteen charter members: M. J. Hull and wife, Jesse Dalton and wife, G. A. Hull and wife, Marion Hart and wife, Rev. W. S. Higgins and wife, Cyrus Stayner, his mother Jane Stayner and sister Sarah Jane Stayner. Rev. W. S. Higgins was chosen first pastor, who continued to preach here until the beginning of 1878, when Rev. J. W. Carson succeeded him. In 1881 Rev. W. H. Wilson succeeded him, and in October of that year the work of church building was entered upon, the building commissioners being William Saxton, M. J. Hull, C. H. Warren, Marion Hart and W. P. Fulton.

The Presbyterian society was organized July 18, 1875, by Messrs. Nelson Robinson, J. H. Reynard and A. M. Dixon within the old school building. In February of that year, however, Mr. Robinson preached here. Mr. Dixon, the first preacher, was succeeded the same year by Rev. Ed Middleton. Early in 1877 the churchhouse was completed at a cost of \$2,600 by Contractor Kidd. In July, 1881, Mr. A. B. Byram was called as pastor, and entered on his duties. The original members were James H. Hazlett, Mary Hazlett, Andrew J. Long, Elizabeth Long, Samuel F. Pomeroy, Mary E. Prosser, Rebecca Howard and Mrs. Crossman. S. F. Pomeroy and J. H. Hazlett were chosen ruling elders. The house which they completed in January, 1877, was the first Presbyterian building in Nebraska west of the east line of the county. The house was remodeled in the fall of 1882 at an expense of \$500, and an organ introduced.

The Christian Church of Edgar was formally commenced April 12th, and organized May 10, 1885, by Professor Henry with twenty-four members, and the church building was dedicated September 19th, the next year. Mr. W. R. Fuller states that the original members were S. B. Montgomery, Mrs. S. B. Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wales, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Wales, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Eller, Mr. and Mrs. John Dobson, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Harris, Mrs. Mary Bishop, Frank A. Cook, Cliff Cook, Joseph Sigman and Jasper Taylor.

The pastors, in order of service, are named as follows: C. W. Henry, A. M. Chamberlain, O. C. Hubbell and H. I. Bryant.

The Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian Churches have been the really active organizations in recent years in Edgar, the Episcopal having long since dropped out and the Baptists disorganized.

#### LODGES

Edgar Lodge No. 67, A. F. & A. M., was created February 27, 1877, and chartered June 20th. The first meetings were held in Harvison's Hall, and the officers elected were: M. J. Hull, worshipful master; E. E. Howard, senior warden; C. H. Kittridge, junior warden; J. G. Glazier, treasurer; S. J. Whitten, secretary. The organization under a charter was effected August 4, 1877, by George Lininger,

grand master, the order numbering twenty-seven charter members. By 1882 the lodge increased to forty-seven members. Meetings were held in Whitten's Hall under the following officers that year: S. J. Whitten, worshipful master; G. M. Mordock, senior warden; S. A. Searle, junior warden; C. H. Treat, secretary; J. G. Glazier, treasurer; O. B. Canfield, senior deacon; Henry Dalton, junior deacon; P. G. Hayes, tyler. G. M. Mordock was master in 1884-85; J. G. Prosser, 1885, with S. J. Whitten, secretary; S. J. Whitten in 1887, with J. J. Walley; W. R. Fuller in 1888-89, with C. H. Treat, secretary.

List of members who have served as master: Past Masters Wm. J. Breckenridge, H. L. Shields, Howard Musick, Butler Hart, G. R. Woods, John Sugden, J. G. Walley, Jacob Speer, W. E. Montgomery, J. C. Gardner, C. A. Voorhees, S. J. Whitten, S. W. Christy, G. M. Mordock, W. R. Fuller, J. L. Ward. John C. Schernikan, master now.

List of members who have served as secretary: Past Secretary F. A. Voorhees, Byron Vaughan, J. J. Walley, Geo. C. Graham, M. J. Hull, C. H. Treat. Wm. J. Breckenridge, secretary now.

#### CHARTER MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF EDGAR CHAPTER NO. 22, ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Milton J. Hull, one time Master of Grand Lodge of State of Nebraska.	David W. Montgomery.
Smith T. Caldwell.	George M. Mordock.
Samuel Johnston.	J. Pratt Nelson.
George W. Bearnes.	John G. Prosser.
John G. Glazier.	Jacob Ritterbush.
Robert Hollingsworth.	William A. Scott.
Ezra E. Howard.	Sylvester A. Searle.
Joseph R. Kidd.	Joseph Van Valin.
	Samuel J. Whitten.

#### PAST HIGH PRIESTS

Milton J. Hull, 1881 to 1884 and 1886 to 1888.  
 Ezra E. Howard, 1884 to 1885 and 1896 to 1898.  
 O. B. Canfield, 1885 to 1886 and 1890 to 1891.  
 John G. Prosser, 1888 to 1889 and 1891 to 1892.  
 S. W. Christy, 1892 to 1894 and 1898 to 1909.  
 S. J. Whitten, 1894 to 1896.  
 W. E. Montgomery, 1909 to 1914.  
 J. G. Walley, 1914 to 1918 and 1920 to 1921.  
 Carl C. Cartney, 1918 to 1920.  
 Edward S. Bottom, present high priest.  
 S. D. Christy, Grand Chapter officer.

#### SECRETARIES

H. Dalton.	J. W. Boden.
S. J. Whitten.	F. M. Ferree.
C. A. Voorhees.	C. P. Avery.
O. B. Canfield.	C. C. Stout, present secretary.
Theo. Hoeger.	

Edgar Lodge No. 80, I. O. O. F., started in March, 1880, and has been active ever since. Edgar Lodge No. 51, A. O. U. W., was organized July 13, 1885, and has not been so very active of recent years. A Modern Woodmen camp was instituted in 1888 and has stayed alive to date. An active American Legion was formed in 1919. Order Eastern Star, Rebekahs and Degree of Honor have flourished.

#### A REVIEW OF EDGAR IN 1914

A review of Edgar written in 1914, while presenting the merits of a town of a thousand people in a slightly different manner than that used in narrating the story of the other Clay County towns, will serve as a portrayal of the possibilities and characteristics of this class of towns.

Edgar is one of those cities that is not over pompous, but one that has a little more than held its own through adverse, reverse and prosperous times. There has been steady advancement all along the line and the present Edgar is well founded, substantial and steady.

History tells us, though the historian is a matter of speculation, that Edgar had 200 inhabitants in 1888 and industries which now exist only in the memories of the oldest inhabitant. That we no longer have these industries is not due to retrogression but to elimination. Vacuum cleaners and floor brushes have made the manufacture of brooms unprofitable; hand cream separators did away with the local creameries; old maids have always been so scarce in Clay County that the demand for pickles was not great. Hence these three industries were unnecessary and were absorbed. The proprietor of the spring mattress factory probably got rich and went East to enjoy (spend) his millions. The canning factory is still a promising asset.

A more beautiful city than Edgar, especially in the summer time, would be hard to find. The whole city is a park, for every street is lined on both sides with large, heavy foliage trees. Lovers Lane, Spoon Avenue, Sweetheart's Promenade, Affinities Meet, Restful Boulevard and Pleasant Paradise, streets which were especially attractive to lovers, have lost their individuality and are no longer crowded, not because lovers are more scarce but because there are dozens just as attractive. Two beautiful parks lend attractiveness to the city. Central Park is a splendid place to rest and chat after a long promenade or while waiting for a belated train on the railroad, as it is conveniently located between the two depots.

Socially our citizens are the best in the world, refined ladies and gentlemen, hospitable and generous. There are no casts in Edgar. Any family which demonstrates its respectability and worthiness, though poor, is accepted in the best of society.

Taking the foregoing into consideration, the family seeking to retire from active life, either farming or mercantile business, could hardly find a place which would give more pleasure and satisfaction.

The city itself is independent, its business ventures are safe. Its well-appor-tioned electric light and waterworks systems are a little more than self-supporting. The city council has been able, with the usual levy, to not only conduct the business of the city, but create a sinking fund which has enabled it to lessen the bonded indebtedness.

## OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL

In 1878 Edgar School District No. 12 had one building with one room which overflowed and a small room had to be rented of Lary Hendricks and the little folks sent there. In 1879 the need was so apparent that a five-room two-story frame building was put up and a large bell installed—the same bell, by the way, that now calls the students together; and a good one, too. About ten years later the portion of the district south of the Burlington tracks, asked for a two-room building on their side for the protection of their children. As the enrollment was over 400 at that time, a new building was needed and the south side got it. Two big rooms were added to the main building about this time, giving the district eleven good sized rooms. This proved inadequate and in 1904 (?) the present building was erected and stands a credit to the district and to the board that conceived it and to the contractor who built it.

Edgar District is one of the accredited schools in the State which gives sufficient education to its scholars who complete the course, to enable them to enter the State University as freshmen in the classical course without conditions. We have a corps of teachers who have been weighed in the balance and found not wanting. Fathers and mothers who are now enthusiastic citizens came here first to take advantage of our excellent schools and later bought property and made Edgar their permanent home. Where could one find a more ideal place to bring up a family of children? Good building, properly ventilated, evenly heated and well lighted, well equipped physical and chemical laboratories and an excellent corps of teachers. Nothing better.

## THE CANNERY

The canning factory, which is to be operated on a larger scale than ever, gives employment to a good many people—men, women and children—during the season, besides making a good market for the year's crop of sweet corn. Mr. Montgomery, the present owner, is himself a processor of experience and will, no doubt, be able to develop a good business for this locality.

## OUR TRANSPORTATION

The two railroads transact a large business in this locality, bringing in large consignments of freight and taking out a good deal, besides carloads of stock and grain. The pay rolls bring a nice amount of money into Edgar each month, almost all of which is spent here. The St. J. & G. I. R. R. hands out pay envelopes to about \$300 each month to its employes, agent, helper, section foreman and section hands, when these last are necessary, and often there are other men here doing some repair work.

The Burlington Railroad, being the terminal of three branches, has at least three gangs here all the time, roadmen, and as many have their homes, property that they own themselves, and their families here. These, with the agent, operator and assistant, road superintendent, section foreman and section men, yard men, mail carrier, etc., will bring the Burlington pay roll up to \$2,500 or perhaps more.

## MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISES

The city owns its electric light plant and waterworks system. These business enterprises were not gone into by the city for money making, but for the benefit and accommodation of the taxpayers. Of course all of the taxpayers could not be supplied at first, as to install a system that would reach every home in Edgar would have cost more than the city could have bonded for, but it is spreading out as fast as possible, and in a short time its pipes and wires will reach to every street in the corporation. Already anyone can get electrical current and we will soon be able to say the same of the water. We are told by men who have been over the state that Edgar has the best water and light service of any city of its size in the state, and when we consider the good judgment and common sense that has developed it we do not see how it could be otherwise. Tell all your friends outside of Edgar that if they are thinking of building them a home in which they can have and enjoy at nominal cost all the conveniences of a large city, they would do well to take a look at Edgar. Any city or town is better off for its new citizens if they are up to the mark.

## THE REAL BOOSTER

Edgar has an organization that has proven to be a genuine booster for Edgar and vicinity. We call it the Commercial Club, though it is really not commercial in any sense. True, it was organized by the commercial interests of the town but its membership roll book is as freely opened to receive the name of a farmer as that of a merchant and his vote will count for just as much.

## EDGAR COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The business industries of Edgar in 1900 were: Avery Brothers, groceries; Bures Brothers, groceries; M. W. Blair; Fullers, shoes and clothing; Gardner & Dawson, general; Ralph C. Saxton, clothing; F. M. Thompson, hardware; King & Hoerger; Bailer & Company, hardware; Brown & Ferree, dry goods and shoes; W. H. Graham, hotel; Fred Evans, jeweler; Elkhorn Meat Market; A. Sprecht; W. L. Osborn, shoes; Mrs. R. H. Defibaugh, millinery; Weigel & Sons, furniture; Joe Hale, livery; A. Magnusen, tailor; W. W. Ackley, barber shop; S. V. Bray, barber shop; Pioneer Lumber Yards, Frees & Montgomery, lumber; F. L. Young Lumber Company; Lindstrom's Studio; City Roller Mills.

Other business industries of Edgar in 1901 and 1902 were: Ralph C. Saxton, clothing; Hawley-Taylor, dry goods; King & Hoerger, groceries; M. P. Dawson, drug store; Weigel & Sons, furniture; S. T. Pomeroy, furniture; S. J. Whitten, lumber yards at Friend, Blue Hill, Pauline and Edgar.

Very few of Edgar's institutions for retail business in 1920 trace their history back to the stores of twenty or thirty years ago. The oldest store is the Walley & Hart store, lineal successor of Ferree Brothers & Walley.

In the Spring of 1873, the foundation of the present mercantile business of Ferree Brothers & Walley was established by James H. Brown and Smith T. Caldwell under the firm name of S. T. Caldwell & Co., Mr. Caldwell moving

here and assuming the management of the business, Mr. Brown not coming until the Spring of 1874.

Their stock consisted of dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes, groceries and farm implements. At this time their territory extended into Kansas, customers coming here from as far as Jewell, Kansas, to trade, drawing up one day and returning the next.

In 1879 Mr. Brown purchased the interests of Mr. Caldwell and continued the business under the firm name of J. H. Brown until his death in November, 1893. In 1885 a new brick building was erected by Mr. Brown and he sold his grocery stock to George H. Murdock and carried only dry goods, clothing, boots, shoes and men's furnishings. In July, 1894, his widow, Mrs. M. J. Brown, C. M. Ferree and F. M. Ferree purchased the stock from the estate under the firm name of Brown & Ferree Brothers.

This partnership was continued until the year 1905, when J. G. Walley purchased Mrs. Brown's interest in the business and the firm name was changed to Ferree Brothers & Walley, which partnership continued. The members of this firm are old residents of the neighborhood, Mr. Walley having resided here all his life and Mr. Ferree moving here with his parents in 1879.

C. M. Ferree started his mercantile career as a clerk for William Saxton. In 1886 he entered the employ of Mr. Brown, working in the present location ever since with the exception of five years, when he managed a branch store at Oak, Nebraska, for Mr. Brown.

P. M. Ferree was employed in 1886 by Charles E. Green, continuing in that capacity until Mr. Green moved his stock to Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1893, when he entered the employ of Mr. Brown.

Mr. Walley was employed as a clerk by the firm of Brown & Ferree Brothers in 1897.

F. M. Thompson & Co., hardware, has been going for about twenty years or so. The Boomer Implement Store, which has considerably expanded beyond its original scope of a well shop of Boomer & Cline, or an implement store, has been going almost fifteen years. Stores that have been running a decade or less are Adkins, grocery; W. L. Hochritner, groceries; J. J. Cassell, hardware; Will Brookley, drugs; Walter Ebert, successor to the A. Specht, Elkhorn Meat Market, of a service of a quarter century or so; James McGhie, furniture, succeeding the George M. Clack and George Walrath stocks of former years; Chicago Lumber Company, succeeding S. B. & W. E. Montgomery, who succeeded the original F. L. Young lumber yard.

Portwood Brothers, who thrived six or seven years ago, are out, as are Daily-Miles Co.; Edward P. King, grocery; Lloyd D. Fisk, clothing stock; Red Cross Pharmacy.

## CHAPTER X

### CLAY CENTER

CLAY CENTER—CITY GOVERNMENT—SCHOOLS—SKETCH BY GEO. A. ALLEN—  
STORES—BANKS—BIG SUCCESSES IN LITTLE PLACES—INCUBATOR FACTORY—  
BUILDING THE NEW COURTHOUSE.

#### CLAY CENTER

The claims of the geographical center of Clay County, from the time the county was organized in 1871 to 1879, were kept before the people, and the spectre of that piece of wild prairie often filled the enterprising citizens of Sutton with alarm. After some years this spectre materialized and won from the wisdom or majority of the people all that it asked. As related in the transactions of the commissioners and in the political chapter, the people of Sutton considered that the victory was against the law and the profits (not prophets), but a second election declared Clay Center entitled to both.

Clay Center was surveyed in the summer of 1879, by O. P. Alexander, acting as trustee for the Town Site Company, composed of R. G. Brown of Sutton; E. P. Church, of Harvard; R. Bayly and O. P. Alexander, of Fairfield, and is located at the exact center of the county. The land was purchased from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, and laid off into six hundred lots. The first building erected on the site was a large one-story frame, belonging to W. D. Young, and used by the county for a court house, and was built in May, 1879. The next building was a restaurant belonging to J. N. Mills, erected in June, 1879, and in July the postoffice was brought from Marshall, about two miles east, and established at the center, and was kept by Mrs. Sophia Cruickshank, in a small house, the front part of which is used as a postoffice and the back part as a residence. About the first of the next year G. E. Birge and L. D. Fowler built an abstract and loan office, in which business they were still engaged, in 1890, having the only set of abstract books in the county. The firm also carried on a banking business.

In August, 1881, a new firm was formed and incorporated, succeeding that of Birge & Fowler, known as the Clay County Abstract and Loan Company, and having a capital stock paid up of \$15,000. The company is composed of G. H. Cowles, president; L. D. Fowler, vice president, and G. E. Birge, manager.

In January, 1881, W. D. Young built a carpenter shop, which was occupied June 1, by Mrs. E. C. Tout, and in which she kept a general store, continuing in the business until December, and was succeeded by D. Leitch, who kept a general store in the same room, in which also Mrs. A. L. Strong kept a stock of millinery goods. G. S. and J. C. Ward, before the town started, had opened a blacksmith shop just outside of where it was laid off, and in January, 1880, they moved their

shop into the town, where they continued the trade of blacksmithing and repairing. A church edifice was erected in December, 1880, by the Christians, who had hitherto been holding services in a country school house, south of where the town now stands and is a 24x46 frame house, costing about \$1,200.

A school house was built in July, 1881, in which was taught the first school in the town by Mrs. Charles Wagner. A second church was established in February, 1882, by the Congregationalists, with thirty members, and Rev. G. A. Taylor, pastor. Services were held in the court room, but active steps were taken for the building of a regular church house at an early date.

Following this, in the immediate order of time, was the erection of a hotel by C. L. Holbrook, which he ran as a public house until August of the same year, when it was rented to P. T. Walton, and used for the same purpose up to February, 1881, at which time it was sold to J. B. and S. S. Tuttle, owners and proprietors.

The next building was a law office, which was built in March, 1880, by S. A. Searle, and following this was the erection of a storeroom by S. A. Allen, in which for a short time he kept a stock of drugs. The business, however, ceased, and the house was sold and was afterwards used as a residence. In March C. N. Green built a house for a saloon; H. L. Corey and J. H. Davis built a livery barn and residence, and also a residence by C. J. Martin was built during that month. In November, 1880, E. P. Burnett put up a residence, as also Mrs. D. C. Marsh, the latter being used for a short time for a boarding-house while the courthouse was in process of erection. The contract for the erection of the court house was given to W. D. Young, in February, 1880, and in the following May work was commenced on the building, which was completed by the first of November, according to the terms of the contract.

In 1873 the Marshall postoffice was established on Section 6, Township 6, Range 6, at the house of James Cruickshank, with the owner as postmaster. He continued to hold the office there until about 1878, when Mrs. Sophia Cruickshank was appointed and carried on the office at Marshall for about one year, when the office was changed to the new county seat. The salary at that time was one dollar per month; but as the new town grew this small consideration increased, and the office was paid by an ordinary commission. Mrs. Cruickshank held the office continuously since 1879 to 1890, and prior to that time carried on the office for her brother-in-law. For three months ending December 31, 1889, the sale of stamps amounted to three hundred and twenty-nine dollars, while the money orders issued amounted to \$800 per year.

#### CITY GOVERNMENT

Clay Center was incorporated February 19, 1887, on petition of Peter Cruickshank and eighty-two others, with Dugald Leitch, N. M. Moulton, C. S. Detweiler, John C. Ward and H. E. Goodall, trustees.

This board organized February 23, with D. Leitch, president; John M. Jones, clerk; B. F. Pollock, treasurer; B. F. McLoney, attorney. In April J. C. Ward, J. W. Irish, B. F. Pollock, J. M. Jones and J. Harrison were chosen trustees: L. F. Fryar, treasurer; Charles Athey, marshal, and B. F. McLoney, clerk and attorney; Messrs. Fryar & McLoney held these positions in 1890. In 1888, C. S. Detweiler, Lee Burlingame, J. M. Jones, C. L. Woodard and H. B. Strong, were





LIBRARY, CLAY CENTER



MAIN STREET, CLAY CENTER



chosen trustees and L. Gardner, marshal; in 1889, Jacob Hager, George S. Ward, Lee Burlingame, George E. Birge and H. E. McDowell, trustees; B. F. McLoney, clerk and attorney; L. F. Fryar, treasurer; J. W. Crouse, street commissioner; L. Gardner, marshal.

In December, 1886, a number of persons from Fairfield visited Clay Center on the first passenger train that entered the town. Conductor Miller and engineer Gordon were in charge of the train. Two hundred and ten persons formed the party.

On March 1, 1887, the depot at Clay Center was opened with S. M. Wallae, agent. He was still in that position in 1890. The record of business for the year ending March 1, 1888, showed a total business of \$37,709.47. The heavy business of that year must be credited to the large amount of corn cribbed here awaiting the completion of the road for shipment, so that the fact of the business of the two last years not showing an increase over that of the first year must be credited to this source.

The telephone line between Clay Center and Fairfield was completed April 30, 1887, the credit being given to L. F. Fryar and Jesse Eller of Clay Center, and C. J. Furer, E. J. Jenkins, J. C. Hedge and J. L. Epperson, of Fairfield.

The official roster of Clay Center's city officials since 1890 have been:

1890—Mayor, Burlingame; councilmen, Ward, Hager, George E. Birge, succeeded by O. C. Williams and B. F. McLoney, clerk, and L. F. Fryar, treasurer. In the spring of 1890 the new officers were: Ward, J. W. Conners, McDowell and Barnett on board, Conners as clerk and Fryar as treasurer. In 1891, Ward, Campbell, McDowell and Barnett were the board, with Clerk Cruickshank and J. L. Epperson, treasurer. In 1892, Jenison, Campbell, Wallace and Fryar served on the board; Bavinger was clerk and J. L. Epperson, treasurer. In 1893, the board consisted of Sellig, Perkins, Hager, and Eller; 1894, Barnett, Perkins, John Naumann and Jacob H. Eller, George Bavinger as clerk and A. C. Epperson as treasurer. In 1895, Ward, Perkins, Hedrick, and Eller were the board; in 1896, Everett, A. B. Perkins, Holcomb and Eller, with Fryar as clerk and L. R. Jones as treasurer. In 1897, board members were Everett, Davis, Naumann, and Wheeler, and Clerk Dickson. In 1898, B. H. Markwell, J. M. McFadden, Frank Stanton, and L. B. Sluyter were board members; Naumann, clerk, and O. C. Williams, treasurer. In 1899, Johnson, Garrison, Stanton, and Powers served on the board, and Bavinger as clerk. In 1900, the board was composed of Kapsner, Sanderson, Taylor, and Cruickshank, who resigned in December and J. K. Gibson was appointed. Klein was city clerk. In 1901, the board was composed of Adams, Barnett, Hursh, and Kapsner, with Detweiler as clerk. In 1902, Dunn, Fryar, Johnson, and Perry were the board of trustees, with J. E. Wheeler as clerk. In 1903, W. W. Campbell, Fryar, Johnson and Perry became board members and Wheeler remained as clerk. In 1904, Campbell, Bart, D. B. Gillette and Perry served as the board, O. C. Williams completed his service as city treasurer, and W. B. Smith took those duties a short time, succeeded in the next year by L. R. Jones and then M. S. Hart. W. W. Campbell, B. W. Campbell, Gillette and W. F. Taylor were the board in 1905. In 1906, W. W. Campbell, Randall, Orr and McDowell were board members and Taylor became clerk to succeed Wheeler and Hart continued as treasurer. In 1907, the board consisted of Bridenbaugh, Orr, Randall, Wheeler and McDowell, and R. A. Byrkit began a term of two years service as city clerk. Bridenbaugh

remained as chairman of the board in 1908, with E. W. Orr, J. L. Perry, J. K. Gibson, and J. E. Wheeler as his associates. In 1909, the members were Jessup, Orr, Perry, Gibson, and Wheeler, with L. B. Stiner, city clerk. In 1910, Jessup, Orr and Wheeler remained on the board, with H. J. Platz and J. O. Latta as new members. In 1911, A. C. Epperson and J. Dudee came on the board, Latta, Orr and Wheeler remained and R. A. Byrkit again became city clerk. In 1912, Ed Westering succeeded Dudee and the remainder of the board continued. No change resulted in 1913 except Henry Richert succeeded Epperson. The same officials remained at the helm in 1914, and in 1915, Hertel succeeded Westering and the rest stayed on the job. In 1916, P. B. J. Adams succeeded Orr and the other four members continued. In 1917, J. H. Richert remained as a member, Adams and R. H. Moore, W. K. Newcomb and J. O. Latta, mayor, became the new members of the administration. Mayor Latta's administration in 1918 found H. A. Swanson and C. Rollins as new board members with Moore and Richert. J. E. Ray was clerk. The 1919 administration remained the same, except C. L. Stewart became clerk. In 1920, H. J. Platz became mayor, and Moore, Swanson, Williamson and Rollins on the board and A. C. Krebs as city treasurer. J. L. Campbell continued to hold the office of city treasurer after a decade's faithful service.

#### SCHOOLS

The first annual meeting of school district Number 70 was organized April 4, 1881, C. J. Martin presiding. Charles Lunn was chosen treasurer; A. J. McPeak, J. F. Thompson, and L. J. Forney building committee. The vote of the district in favor of building twenty-four, and against nine, the amount in question being two hundred and eighty dollars.

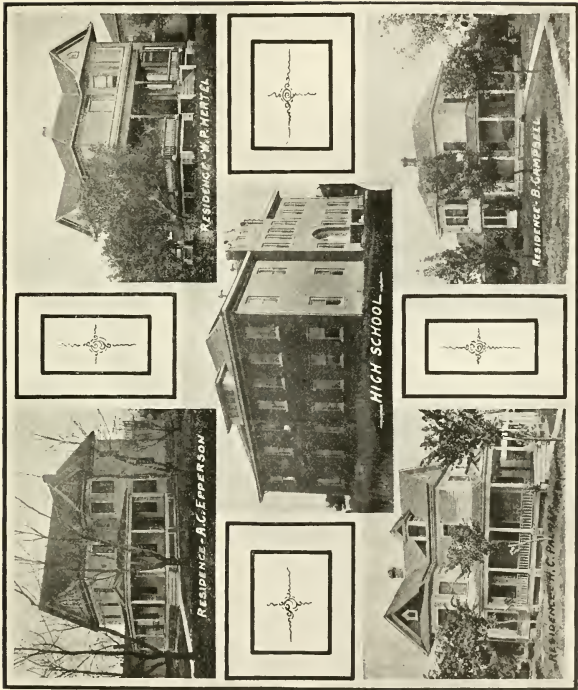
John Damon presided in 1882, J. P. Nixon and C. J. Martin in 1883-4. In 1885 H. H. Hendee and wife were engaged to teach the school here for seven dollars per annum. In 1886 William M. Walters was a director. In April, 1887, he and J. M. Jones were chosen trustees for one year, D. Leitch and P. Cruickshank for two years, Jacob Hayward and N. M. Moulton for three years. In April, 1888, the question of issuing bonds for \$3,000, the proceeds to be expended on a school building, was ordered to be submitted. This proposition was carried and the two-story frame building erected.

The school board, in February, 1890, comprised H. E. McDowell, D. Leitch, J. M. Lyons, Jacob Hager, N. M. Moulton, and Secretary Stein. Minnie Bayly was employed as teacher in September, 1880; C. S. Detweiler in August, 1881; Emma McKee, 1882; William Walters, 1883; H. B. Strong and H. H. Hendee, 1884; B. G. Moulton, Josie L. Noble, L. J. Cowen, 1885.

In 1888, J. K. McKee, Josie Noble and Jennie Forbes were teachers, while in 1889 the name of N. M. Graham appeared as teacher, and he with Misses Noble and Price presided over the schools in 1890. The number of pupils enrolled was 145, and the total number in the county, 5,877, of whom 3,110 are males and 2,767 females.

George E. Birge, E. P. Burnett, George F. Dickson, Louis F. Fryar, Charles J. Martin, Jonas P. Nixon, O. H. Parsons, George H. Van Duyne, and Justus E. Wheeler are credited with being the only owners of books in 1881-82 at Clay Center.

In 1890 those who were serving to upbuild the schools of Clay Center were



RESIDENCE - W. P. MEITEL

RESIDENCE - A. C. EPPERSON

HIGH SCHOOL

RESIDENCE - B. GAMMILL

RESIDENCE - C. PHILLIPS

RESIDENCES AND HIGH SCHOOL OF CLAY CENTER



Moderator Leitch, Stein, Moulton and McDowell. In 1891 three year terms were commenced by J. M. Lyons, H. E. McDowell, and H. E. Stein. L. E. Burlingame also served. In 1892, Jacob Hager and B. W. Campbell came on the board. 1894 saw three new members, Cruickshank, Loudon, and Allison. McDowell served a second term from 1894-7. In 1896, Mitchell and Bavinger came onto the board and in 1897 Mrs. Eller and J. L. Campbell started service. In 1899 Hugh B. Loudon returned to the board, H. J. Mitchell began another term, L. F. Fryar started in and C. S. Detweiler was another new member. In 1900, George M. Bavinger and B. W. Campbell were serving with Loudon, Mitchell, Fryar. In 1901, H. Culvier succeeded Loudon. In 1902, two new members came on, Richert and Allen. In 1903, George A. Allen alone held over and four new associates constituted a rather changed board, Macken, A. P. Randall, J. W. Townsend, J. C. Kapser. In 1904 Macken's place was taken by J. B. Sanderson and in 1905 Townsend's by J. H. Eller. The same five held over in 1906 and in 1907, Allen, Eller and Randall and Kapser were joined by Richert and Johnson. The board, now six in number remained the same in 1908. In 1909, Allen, Eller and Kapser remained with M. Martin, Epperson and Orr as new associates. In 1910, Taylor succeeded Orr. Hansen and R. A. Byrkit came on in 1911. The same board served in 1912, 1913, and 1914, being A. C. Epperson, W. F. Taylor, R. A. Byrkit, H. M. Hanson, E. W. Orr, and Geo. A. Allen. In 1915, Mrs. F. F. Swanson, Mrs. H. H. Johnson, and Lulu Johnson came on and served with Hanson, Allen and Orr. The same board served in 1916. The board in 1921 shows H. M. Hanson still on the job, with a new crew of associates, H. A. Swanson, H. B. Campbell, Cal Rollins, L. A. Brown, and A. S. Kyne.

When the corner-stone for the new court house was laid the following sketch of Clay Center was furnished by George A. Allen:

Clay Center was laid out in the fall of 1878, and the first building erected was a blacksmith and carpenter shop combined built by the Ward Brothers, George S. and John C. Ward, which building was built May, 1879, and was the first building in the section.

The first store was a shoe store, followed in July of the same year, and in the same year some other buildings were erected, and the postoffice, which was one mile east of the village, was moved into the village in July, 1879. Mrs. Sophia Cruickshank was postmistress, and Clay Center struggled along as a country village, increasing in population and making improvements with her eye peeled for the county seat of the county.

Under the amended statutes an election was ordered for the election of the removal of county seat which was in Sutton, and took place in 1879, the competing points being Sutton, Harvard, and Clay Center, which resulted in no removal, although in this campaign much spirited work was done in the way of making speeches in the different school houses of the county. The historian says that the vote was frightfully large in the county.

Another election was ordered or called for November 7, 1879, with Sutton, Clay Center and Harvard being the competitors, with the result that Clay Center received 1,967 votes and Harvard 1,867, thus giving a majority for Clay Center, and stored and housed in temporary buildings, until the court house was completed in the year 1881, when all records were moved into the new building and officers took up their duties in their respective offices, a happy lot.

The village continued to grow, business houses were put up, a school house was built, and it seemed so large at that time that Dugald Leitch said it would be big enough for Clay Center for one hundred years to come. Little did Dugald understand how prolific the average Nebraska citizen was capable of being, but Dugald was mistaken as seen by our fine schoolhouse of today, already outgrown. Churches were built, business prospered, people were happy, and so they lived and flourished in peace and contentment as the capital of the county up to the year 1887.

In February, 1887, Clay Center, having grown greater, was organized as a village by the board of supervisors, and the first board of trustees for the newly organized village were as follows: Dugald Leitch, N. M. Moulton, C. S. Detweiler, John C. Ward, and H. E. Goodall. Of these trustees, only one is living up to the year 1918, namely: H. E. Goodall, now of Ogalala.

Clay Center was administered as a village under different boards of trustees until the year 1911, as at this time there was a population of more than one thousand, and therefore a city of the second class, so the old administration gave way, and was supplanted by a city government composed of a mayor, and city councilmen, with city clerk, city treasurer, police judge and city attorney, and at present is divided into two wards, the north and south wards, with two councilmen in each ward.

As I have named the first officers when the village was organized, I will give the officers of Clay Center in the year 1918. Mayor, J. O. Latta, city clerk, J. E. Ray; city treasurer, J. L. Campbell, councilmen for south ward, Henry Richert and R. H. Moore; councilmen for north ward, H. A. Swanson and Cal Rollins.

This brings our beautiful city of Clay Center down from the year 1878 to the year 1918, with her great improvements, such as the largest incubator factory in the world, fine flouring mill, fine and well stocked stores, two banks and numerous other lines of business, as you might say, brought down from a wilderness of prairie in 1878 to 1918, with her fine residences, new court house, fine shade trees and cement walks, all of which makes Clay Center of today a beautiful city of over 1,200 inhabitants.

#### COMMERCIAL

In Clay Center since the early nineties the leading general stores have been Stein's Cash Store, later Stein Brothers, who moved to Hastings, where they have conducted a leading department store, and which business in Clay Center eventually became part of the J. H. Eller and Company store. In the nineties Eller and Heasley grocery was running, later Mitchell and Heasley, and by 1905 this was Heasley and Eller Brothers, later Eller and Detweiler and eventually J. H. Eller and Company.

The John McFadden store has been running for probably thirty years. Another stock which eventually became part of the J. H. Eller and Company establishment was that of Ingram and Randall, preceded by S. E. Ingram and he by Mitchell and Ingram. Mitchell and Heasley and Mitchell, Hub Racket had been in business preceding this in the nineties.

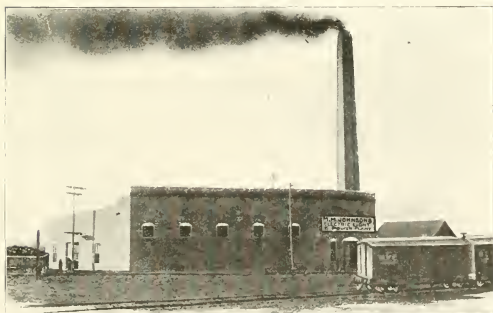
Ochsner Brothers started to handle a clothing stock some fifteen years ago, this was later handled by H. H. Platz and eventually closed out.

Earlier meat-markets were the Central Market of Deines Brothers and Com-





HOME OF GEORGE WARD, CLAY CENTER



JOHNSON POWER PLANT, CLAY CENTER



pany, Sanderson and Schlick, H. J. Richert, McClemans and Dempsey and George Schlick and Company, all of which are long since out of business.

One of the pioneer commercial establishments of Clay Center, is the drug store of Postmaster F. A. Thompson, running since 1886. The old Robinson drug store was taken over about fifteen years ago by J. H. Nieman, later running as the Nieman Drug Company.

Stanton and Carney ran a hardware stock in the nineties, later as the Frank Stanton, then about 1891, Nichols and Macken, which stock sustained numerous other changes of ownerships in the past fifty years. The A. Allison hardware and furniture stock was taken over by F. C. H. Adams in about 1903 and now the Moomaw.

The W. B. Hertel implement stock has been expanded to include the E. A. Burton furniture stock and the successor of the old Stanton hardware stock and is now one of the large commercial establishments of Clay County.

D. C. Hagers has been in the jewelry business in Clay Center for over a quarter of a century.

The George S. Ward Lumber Company grew out of the Frees and Hedge yards of the early nineties and this company still maintains its business in Clay Center. The Pauley Lumber Company is the successor of the Clay Center Lumber Company and Chicago Lumber Company of two decades ago. The Powers and Detweiler implement house of the nineties, later conducted by C. S. Detweiler, has passed out.

Other commercial establishments worthy of mention are: Sanderson & Tuttle, restaurant; G. M. White, West Side livery; H. W. Cuff, livery; B. H. Dunn, livery; R. H. Smith East Side livery; Nebraska Poultry Company; Mrs. Queen Fryar, Miss Welch, millinery; Miss E. A. Prentice, photographer; Adam H. Neuman, blacksmith; Townsend Photo Shop; W. S. Reed, photographer; garages: R. A. Fate, William P. Hertel, Swanson Brothers, Kirshner and Sanderson, Durkel Company.

Clay Center's business roster in 1920 was:

L. J. Allen, restaurant	Drs. I. D. and D. O. Gartrell
Dr. J. W. Archerd	D. C. Hager, store
R. A. Byrkit, abstractor	H. M. Hanson, plumbing
City Pumping Station	William P. Hertel, implements
Clay Center State Bank	The M. M. Johnson Company
Clay Center Grain Company	M. Kirchner, auto livery
Commercial State Bank	August C. Krebs, attorney
Commercial Hotel	F. M. Larkin, feed store
Dr. D. A. Deines, dentist	Dr. J. O. Latta, office
N. O. Deines, meat market	J. M. McFadden, general merchandise
E. J. Dickson, billiard parlor	J. L. Moomaw, hardware store
Clay Center Grain Company	R. H. Moore, restaurant
Eller & Co., general merchandise	Nebraska Poultry Company
A. C. Epperson, attorney	Nieman Drug Company
Farmers' Cooperative Association	Orr Brothers Mill
Ralph Fry, clothing store	H. C. Palmer, attorney
L. F. Fryar, abstractor	Patriot Office Publishing Co.
H. Fuhrken, bakery	J. E. Ray

C. L. Rippeteau Company, general merchandise	Updike Elevator Company
Sun Printing Office	G. S. Ward & Co., lumber yard
F. A. Thompson, drug store	Water Works
	J. E. Wheeler, abstracter

## CLAY CENTER'S BANKS

The Commercial State Bank at Clay Center was established February 11, 1887, with O. G. Smith, president; J. M. Sewall, vice-president; Horace N. Jones, cashier, and H. E. McDowell, assistant cashier. The capital paid up was \$30,000. In 1895, H. E. McDowell was president, E. D. Davis, vice president, and J. L. Campbell, cashier. The bank then showed a statement of assets and liabilities of \$58,433.74. In 1900 it was still under the presidency of H. E. McDowell, with John Murtey, in more recent years a prominent grain man of Alvo, Nebraska, as vice president and J. L. Campbell as cashier. In 1904 it showed a statement balancing \$112,036.16. In 1910 its deposits had reached \$190,000. The rapid development of the last ten years in Clay County is further evidenced for 1916 and 1921. In 1916 the deposits had grown to \$273,000 and in 1921 to \$365,000. At the present time H. E. McDowell remains president of the institution, with H. H. Johnson as vice president, H. B. Campbell, for many years assistant cashier, now cashier, and W. B. Smith, assistant cashier.

Clay Center's other bank since 1895 has been the State Bank of Clay Center\* and Clay Center State Bank. The First National Bank was really the predecessor of this institution. A new organization was effected August 7, 1889, by G. W. Clawson, S. A. Walker, C. F. McGrew, George A. Tenney, Frank Knox, George E. Birge, L. D. Fowler, W. J. Gardiner, W. L. Wilson, and William M. Walters, with Clawson as president and W. J. Gardiner as cashier. Gardiner remained as cashier for a good many years, but George A. Tenney became president in a few years after this organization. This bank used a brick building built in 1887 by Jesse F. Eller, then the only brick building in town except the court house.

This bank in 1897, Cashier Gardiner's statement of assets and liabilities balanced at \$32,639.03. Theo. Miller and M. L. Luebben, of the ill-fated First National of Sutton, were directors at this time in the State Bank of Clay Center. In 1910, G. P. Schwab was president; A. P. Randall, vice president; F. T. Swanson, cashier, and H. A. Swanson, assistant cashier. The deposits were then \$109,000. The deposits in 1912 had grown to \$128,000, and in 1916 to \$160,000. In 1921 this bank is officered by F. T. Swanson, president; F. A. Thompson, vice president, and H. A. Swanson, cashier, with deposits of \$275,000.

## BIG SUCCESSES IN LITTLE PLACES

(Chesla C. Sherlock in Leslie's)

Today the place of opportunity is the small town. The business which may be done there is limited only by the ability of the man and the drawing power of the English language.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE, CLAY CENTER



GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, CLAY CENTER



Out in Iowa there was once a country boy who loved to grow things. He would rather work his garden than eat, and you know how boys like to eat. His father encouraged him in this inclination and he was soon growing such bountiful crops, such wonderful flowers, that his neighbors asked him to save them some seed.

So he commenced to sell seed. First, a package here and there among his neighbors, until the idea came to him, "Why not go into the seed business?" There were people everywhere who were looking for honest seed and an honest man from whom to buy them.

Henry Field, that was his name, went into the seed business in his home town. Last year he did a business of \$1,199,092.61. His town, Shenandoah, has a population of 5,000 people. It is only a matter of twelve or fifteen years since Henry Field was investing \$500 in the business and making his start. Of course, the bulk of Field's business is conducted by mail, but that is no obstacle in the way of the small town.

In Thief River Falls, Minn., there is a country merchant who saved his business by using the mail order idea. His town has a population of 3,714 people. His business was drawn almost entirely from the surrounding country.

Last year he did a business from his town of 3,700 people in excess of \$1,000,000!

There is a town in Indiana, Avilla, to be exact, which has a population of 600 people. Harvey Moore, a former barber, who is a furniture retailer there, does more than \$1,000 a week the year around.

MacPruitt, a furniture dealer, who lives at Clarinda, Iowa, a town boasting a population of 4,400 souls, didn't have a dime eight years ago. He borrowed \$700 on his home, bought a stock of goods for \$1,450, and paid \$500 down. Then he rented a storeroom calling for \$60 per month rent. Thus he started out with less than \$200 working capital.

Last year he did a business of \$90,000. He keeps a \$25,000 stock of goods on hand.

At Newton, Iowa, the Maytag Washing Machine Company, a nationally known concern, is doing a business in excess of \$6,000,000 a year; at Charles City, Iowa, the Hart-Parr Company, manufacturing tractors, gas engines, and other farm machinery, does a business running into millions, at Kellogg, Iowa, merely a "tank" station, is the Gould Balance Valve Company doing business in all parts of the world and running into millions annually. At Clay Center, Nebraska, a country boy started an incubator company which has sold hundreds of thousands of hatching machines all over the world.

#### THE INCUBATOR FACTORY

So Clay Center has had one enterprising citizen, just mentioned, who has demonstrated this old, old fact that if a man produces an article or offers a ware or a service that is superior to its competitors on the market, no matter where located, it can be built into a nationally known enterprise. Situated in the town of Clay Center, on a branch line of railroad, with lack of metropolitan traffic or commercial facilities, such an enterprise has built up at Clay Center. The best, brief historical view of this project can be taken from the history of the same published at the time of M. M. Johnson's death.

## M. M. JOHNSON—WORLD FAMOUS INCUBATOR MAN

M. M. Johnson, of Clay Center, Nebraska, the world's greatest incubator manufacturer, died in January, 1912, at Idaho Springs, Colorado, where he had been sojourning for his health.

"Sixty-five cents was the sum of M. M. Johnson's fortune when he and his wife, son and daughter arrived in Clay Center. He was employed for some time as engineer in Orr Brothers' flour mill and while thus engaged invented the 'Sure Hatch Incubator,' which he afterwards manufactured on an extensive scale. He later invented the Old Trusty, for the making of which he erected a new factory. This second enterprise grew more rapidly than the first and each year since its beginning has brought a large increase in its output."

In his autobiography, entitled "The Ups and Downs of An Inventor," published in the Old Trusty catalogue, Mr. Johnson wrote that the refusal of his employers in his early days at Clay Center to grant him a ten (10) cent raise in pay was responsible for his engaging in the incubator business.

From his very meager beginning Mr. Johnson rose to a position of wealth and large influence. He made his name and his incubator known in every civilized nation, yet in his last catalogue sketch of his own career he wrote characteristically:

"My wife and I work just the same as always. We get our pleasure out of the growth of the business and the friends we are making. We could not appreciate and enjoy these things unless we did work."

The immense business done by the Old Trusty factory has caused the Clay Center postoffice to take rank as the greatest second class postoffice for a town of Clay Center's size in the country.

Although Clay Center has a population of only one thousand and sixty-five (1,065) according to the 1910 census, the receipts of the postoffice there last year (1910) was over \$32,000, as compared with \$37,500 for the Hastings postoffice.

The homely language used by Mr. Johnson in his autobiography gives an excellent idea of Mr. Johnson's rugged character.

"At the age of twenty-one went into partnership with a farmer's daughter and together we started out for better or worse," he wrote.

He tried farming, then coal mining and later became a Burlington Locomotive engineer. Ill luck overtook him and he settled in a farm in Missouri.

"One day after taking a basket of eggs and a crate of chickens to market for my wife it occurred to me that the chicken business was first cousin to gold and silver mining," is his account of his vision of the business which became his life work.

He tried chicken raising on a large scale, but gave it up to accept the place of engineer in the mill at Clay Center, established by men he had known at Sheridan, Missouri.

With his family Johnson started in a covered wagon for Clay Center. At Pleasanton, Kansas, one of his daughters died.

"We finally reached Clay Center with sixty-five cents. It is ups and downs that I am writing about. This time it was down. All told, we were worse off than nothing, inasmuch as we owed doctor's bills here and at Pleasanton.

"The \$1.50 a day I received was slow recuperating, I tell you. One day I told





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CLAY CENTER



CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CLAY CENTER



the boss if he could stand a ten-cent raise in my wages I could stand it. Still more, I could make a double effort to earn it, but times were hard for millers and I had no sooner asked for the raise than I was ashamed for approaching him.

"If I was asked today what really instigated my incubator manufacturing my mind would revert to the ten cents per day advance in my wages. I feel sure now that had the ten cents' advance been granted that I would be an engineer now.

"I unloaded my ambition to the boss, and he thought well of it. 'Go ahead, Johnson, make incubators in the boiler house, so long as we have steam to keep the wheels running we will be satisfied.' The Orr brothers have been my staunch friends to this day."

"The Sure Hatch" enterprise was sold, afterwards removed to Fremont and later abandoned. Mr. Johnson remained in Clay Center, invented the Old Trusty, and organized a new company.

"Although my margin of profit has been small, averaging less than \$1.00 on each incubator, I have accumulated," wrote Mr. Johnson in his autobiography. "What I have made in the business has gone to improve the business. Have the largest incubator and brooder factory in the world, have my own working capital and the best commercial rating in the business."

In 1909 the factory turned out over 73,000 incubators and brooders. In 1910 the output was nearly 100,000.

#### NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Monday noon, August 23, 1920, there gathered around the tables of the King hotel more than fifty of the representative citizens of this community and after discussing a splendid dinner served in a highly satisfactory manner they completed the organization of a working and workable Chamber of Commerce.

As a result of the election held Mr. H. H. Johnson has the chairmanship of executive committee. Mr. Johnson is the head of the M. M. Johnson Incubator Company. Mr. F. T. Swanson, President of the Clay Center State Bank was made vice president; A. S. Kyne, traffic manager for the M. M. Johnson Company was made treasurer, and August C. Krebs, attorney, was elected to the secretaryship. On the executive committee are Dr. J. O. Latta, one of our most progressive citizens and a practitioner of wide repute; Charles H. Epperson, a university graduate and one of the rising young attorneys of the state; George S. Ward, head of one of the largest building material establishments in the country and a man always alive in public service. Loy Gilkeson, Clay County's most efficient Superintendent of Public Instruction and a man who is wrapped up in his hopes and plans for community betterment, and last on the list—not because of his being least, but rather because of his being a secure foundation upon which to build—we find Judge J. E. Ray, wise in the things that may be done and the correct manner of procedure to obtain the very best results.

#### CHURCHES AND LODGES

The Methodist society started in 1884 and has been active ever since. The Congregational society began as early as 1882, and are still a flourishing congre-

gation. The Christian Church was organized as early as 1875, and is the other active church in Clay Center. The Catholics have always had some services here.

The Masonic Lodge organized in 1885. The K. of P. started in at Clay Center in 1887. W. R. C., D. of H., Eastern Star, Rebekahs all attest to the activity of the women. The M. W. A. have had a camp here.

Jordan Post, G. A. R., was organized during the winter of 1886-87, and the charter was granted March 11, 1887, to the following named comrades: Robert J. Wilson, Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry; Joseph L. Myer, Twenty-sixth Pennsylvania Infantry; Jacob Hager, Company K, Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry; Joseph Burt, Company A, Eighth Iowa Cavalry; Charles Latour, Company C, Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry; Samuel Williams, Company K, Seventy-third New York Infantry; J. J. Miller, Company D, Eleventh Iowa Infantry; J. W. Irish, Company A, Second United States Artillery; Nathaniel Graham, Company A, Twenty-seventh Ohio Infantry; S. M. Elder, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-third Illinois Infantry; Eli Golding, Company I, One Hundred and Eighteenth, and Company I, One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Indiana Infantry; B. F. Graham, Company D, Third Illinois Cavalry; Ephraim Sumner, Company C, Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry; L. F. Fryar, Company A, Thirty-seventh Illinois Infantry; G. W. Marsh, Company C, Sixtieth New York Infantry; Thomas Sumner, Company D, Sixth Iowa Infantry; William Seelig, Company I, One Hundred and Thirtieth Indiana Infantry; John M. Jones, Company F, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry.

#### THE NEW COURT HOUSE

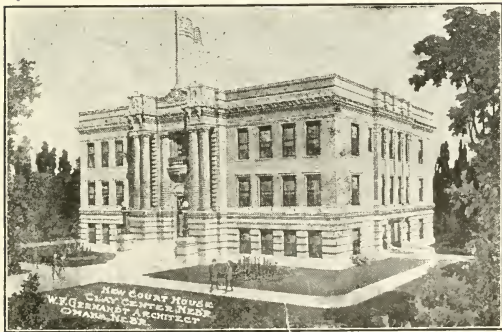
The Clay Center Sun on August 22, 1918, placed the following in print:

"In order to keep history straight it is well to know at this time to whom really belongs the credit for Clay County having a new court house. Some years ago the matter was put to a vote and lost and for the time became a dead issue. After a time in the dark grave of political oblivion the old stiff began to show signs of returning to life. This spark was fanned by local lovers of the county and by some few officials who appreciated the grave danger of continuing to keep our valuable records in the old building. Finally the matter of petitioning our supervisors to build us a suitable building was granted consideration and at a meeting of the Clay Center Commercial Club sufficient funds were subscribed to pay for the circulating of petitions in the various parts of the county. The work was finished with but little opposition, the petitions turned over to the supervisors and the new building was given the serious consideration of the county managers. The details of what followed this beginning are familiar to most of our readers, but to have the story right from beginning to end you need the link that is labeled 'The Clay Center Commercial Club,' and when the building shall have been completed and you stand looking at its beautiful facade, do not fail to place the credit for our greatest move forward as a county where it belongs.

"Certainly the money of the taxpayers of the county will meet the expense bills for the building, but the real foundation rests on the \$250 advanced by the Commercial Club of this city, that little bunch of community builders who have from the beginning been either ridiculed or damned, but who have always been the water bearers in every community project needing financial assistance or moral backing.



OLD CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CLAY CENTER



CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CLAY CENTER



## THE BUILDING OF THE NEW COURTHOUSE

After having decided to build a \$100,000 county building, the supervisors went at the matter of getting plans with all of the care that they would have exercised had they been building for themselves personally and together with Clerk Frisch they visited and carefully inspected a number of the best courthouse structures in the state, and at the end of their investigations held conferences with various architects and finally gave the contract for the plans and construction to Architect Germandt of Omaha. In passing we will say that never since having made this ward have the supervisors had occasion to regret their action for Mr. Germandt has been everything that a councilor and advisor should be since he went on the job.

On April 15th the first dirt was turned and under the exceedingly competent active foremanship of Mr. George Reulling the work has been pushed forward with as much speed as could have been expected had there not been any of the absolutely unavoidable delays attendant upon an overworked transportation system and other labor and material features that are thrown out of tune by war work. So well has Mr. Reulling performed his part of the contract that he informs us that unless something more serious than has already happened occurs, he will turn the completed structure over to the county some days ahead of the time stipulated in the contract, viz., January 1, 1919.

As the time drew near for the formal laying of the cornerstone of the building, the supervisors invited the Masonic fraternity to take charge of the ceremonial. Grand Master Epperson accepted the invitation for the order and the 19th of August was set as the date for the function. Invitations were sent out by the local lodge A. F. & A. M. to the membership over the territory and by the supervisors to the boards of surrounding counties and to as many of the old-timers of Clay as could be located. Soon after noon of the appointed day our streets became animated with numerous delightful reunions, and one could not walk a block without catching from a dozen groups fragments of conversations, all of which contained reference to "it was in '73—" "Yes, I came here before the old building was started—" "Why, I hardly know the old town," etc.

The hour set for the ceremony was three o'clock, and prior to that time the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. convened in their lodge room with Grand Master A. C. Epperson of Clay Center "in the east." Not all of the grand officers were able to be present. However, those staunch old workers in the craft—Grand Marshal Edward M. Wellman, Grand Custodian Robert E. French and Grand Chaplain Allen A. Randall—were here, and they, with Grand Master Epperson, are a host in themselves. Carl C. Cartney of Edgar acted as grand secretary; John C. Hedge of Hastings as grand treasurer; H. N. Webster of Hastings, grand senior warden; and L. A. Higgins of Harvard, deputy grand master. Proceeding from the hall accompanied by the Order of Eastern Star and a handsome bevy of flower-laden misses, the parade was led to the scene of the ceremony by the municipal band.

The formal laying of the stone was accomplished without a hitch and the oration of the day was delivered by Grand Chaplain A. A. Randall of Auburn. Mr. Randall appeared to his best advantage in this speech, and it was declared by many to be the best thing they had ever heard on a similar occasion. His former residence in this county and the fact that he had at one time been county superintendent of instruction here, gave him a local view that made it easy for him to

bring to his audience familiar references, accurate early history and judicious comment on our past accomplishments and present needs. It was a notable speech and an already strong standing in this community was made more firm for Mr. Randall whom we still claim with pride as a Clay County man.

Throughout the program an abundance of good music was supplied by the band and the local choirs, and at the close of the address a splendid affair was brought to close by a great festival of handshaking and kindly greeting by people from all over the state, who by word and deed placed the stamp of their approval on our undertaking and voiced praise of the manner in which it is being consummated.

The stone contains the usual amount of historical data and bears on its face the following inscription: Laid by the M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., A. D. 1918, A. L. 5918, A. C. Epperson, Grand Master. Board of Supervisors of Clay County: F. A. Westering, chairman; Geo. England, O. W. Challburg, G. C. Fishback, J. H. Itzen, Phillip J. Schwab, James Ziggafos.

Thus another step forward has been taken by Clay County, and it is pleasing to know that in the face of most unusual conditions we are going steadily forward to what now seems assured an early and satisfactory conclusion. That this is true is due in a great measure to the fact that our greatest building enterprise is in the hands of men who feel their responsibility and are trying their best to "make good."



## CHAPTER XI

### OTHER TOWNS

OTHER TOWNS OF THE COUNTY—GLENVILLE (BY L. L. BRANDT)—ONG (BY CARL SANDBURG)—SARONVILLE—SPRING RANCH—INLAND.

#### THE OTHER TOWNS OF THE COUNTY

Clay County has another group of very splendid small towns, which if space permitted could furnish a very elaborate history. Glenville, Ong, Deweese, Trumbull, Spring Ranche and Inland especially.

Illustrative of this point, we might cite that in 1921, outside of the five larger towns of Clay County, there are situated the numerous business institutions named and especially the following banks, officered as follows, with deposits given to show the commercial importance of their respectively extensive if small business communities:

**GLENVILLE.** Bank of Glenville, L. L. Brandt, president; A. B. Newell, vice president; John J. Mohlman, cashier; loans \$300,000 and deposits \$315,000. Farmers State Bank, G. W. Flesneg, president; R. C. Peters, cashier; and S. C. Itzen, assistant cashier. Loans \$265,000 and deposits \$300,000.

**ONG.** Bank of Commerce, started in 1910, Wm. Westering, president; Christian Peterson, vice presidents; Joseph Anderson, cashier; Mandie E. Nelson, assistant cashier. Deposits \$320,000.

Exchange Bank of Ong, started in 1889, M. Bolton, president; A. Luers and R. C. Peters, vice president; C. V. Glenn, cashier. Deposits \$310,000.

**DEWEESE.** State Bank of Deweese, started in 1905, C. L. Lewis, president; R. A. Briggs, cashier; T. P. Shively, vice president. Deposits \$130,000. The current business houses of this community are: The bank, Chicago Lumber Company, Deweese Cafe, Deweese Grain Co., Joseph Dobesh, Store, East Elevator, Farmers Elevator, Economy Store, Frank Forst, Garage, Hotel, Implement Co., H. D. Jackson, Store, John Soucek, Hardware, West Elevator, S. L. True.

**TRUMBULL.** Farmers Exchange Bank, started in 1905, G. G. Lane, president; W. A. Martin and J. H. Haggard, vice presidents; Ernest Ormsby, cashier. Deposits \$145,000. Trumbull State Bank, started in 1902, A. L. Clarke, president; W. A. Taylor, vice president; A. A. Held, cashier. Deposits \$35,000. Trumbull's only general store was burned in March, 1921, and left the community temporarily crippled from trading viewpoint, with only elevators, garage and such usual business institutions.

**INLAND.** Farmers State Bank, started in 1911, H. G. Wellensiek, president; J. D. Lamp, vice president, Carl H. Worley, cashier. Deposits \$120,000. This town also has Yost Lumber Yard, Farmers Union Elevator and stores.

**SARONVILLE.** Farmers State Bank, started in 1891, Adolph Aspegren, presi-

dent; John Benson, vice president; and Marie L. Klintberg, cashier. Deposits \$110,000. There is also the Aspegren & Strand, hardware; Basket Store No. 65, Farmers Grain & Lumber Co., and John Heinz, store.

VERONA. Farmers State Bank, since 1912, Nels Nelson, president; W. F. Mack, vice president; A. B. Turner, cashier. Deposits \$55,000. There are also here Farmers Cooperative & Elevator Association and garage and store.

SPRING RANCHE. Blue Valley State Bank, started in 1912, which formerly was officered by M. L. Corey, president, and G. L. and W. T. Voss; now has W. A. Stewart, president; E. Stewart, vice president; and W. E. Stewart, cashier. Deposits \$110,000.

#### GLENVILLE

Glenville is located on the contiguous corners of the original pre-emption claims of R. S. Winters, Daniel Fitch and Robert Thompson. In July, 1872, the railroad was completed to this point and the depot and section house erected, the sod houses of the claimants being the only signs of habitation here prior to that date, although some distance away I. D. Newell settled in 1872. Early in 1873 a storehouse was constructed by J. W. Sturgis, who offered a stock of goods for sale. In July he was joined by Charles Clutz. The village was surveyed in the fall; Bennett Cox erected a store and dwelling house, the same which became the property of David Stein and P. H. Cone. Edward Davis opened a blacksmith shop in 1878; Luke Goldenstein built a house for mercantile purposes; H. M. Oliver a grain elevator, and established the coal and lumber yards. The Keystone Hotel was built in 1879 by G. Z. Fink, who sold to Warwick in 1880. He rented the building to Richard Harris and moved away. Dr. Mark A. Perkins settled here in May, 1881. The first death in the place was that of Elizabeth Carroll, the wife of George Carroll, a section boss on the railroad, and the first child born was Thomas, the son of these people.

In later '80s the village claimed a population of 300, and the business interests were represented by B. Johnson and L. Goldenstein, general merchants; Evans and Jordan, druggists; G. Z. Fink, justice of the peace; E. D. Davis, blacksmith; J. W. Sturgis, wagon-maker; and E. Uden, agricultural implement dealer. Doctor Perkins was the physician of the district for a number of years.

The Baptist Church building was the first house of worship erected. Work on this building was commenced late in 1881 and completed April 23, 1882, at a cost of \$1,000. Ten years before this, in the winter of 1871-72, the school district was organized, with R. Thompson, D. Fitch and R. S. Winters trustees. The schoolhouse was built in 1872, and by the close of 1873 the village laid some claims to the name of town. In 1882 there were twenty-five houses, one general store, one drug store, one hardware store, and elevator and a lumber and a coal yard.

The earliest religious services were held at Glenville in July, 1873, when a number of the young men of the town held a sort of Sunday school in the railroad depot. But a few persons were present on this first day, and it was announced that a similar meeting would be held on the next Sunday. When the day came wagon load after wagon load might be seen gathering in from all parts of the country to this rude teaching of the gospel. On this day the house was filled and numbers turned away for want of room. A regular union Sunday school was

organized, and J. W. Small was elected superintendent. The first sermon preached in the town was by Rev. Charles Clutz in the depot. Several congregations were organized in the surrounding district prior to 1882, who held services in the schoolhouse and Baptist Church in the village.

These denominations were the Presbyterian, Rev. R. J. Smith, pastor; the American Baptists, Rev. M. Wilson, pastor; German Baptists, Rev. Mr. Crane, pastor; Methodist, Rev. F. Campbell, pastor; the Evangelical Association, Doctor Oyler of Harvard, pastor; and the Catholics, who were attended by the priest in charge of Hastings Parish.

A contract to build the schoolhouse was given to W. D. Young, at that time a partner of Thompson, one of the board, for which he was to receive the bonds of the district to the amount of \$3,350, at ten per cent interest. The contract was then sub-let by Young to Ramsey, who was to complete the house and furnish all the material for \$1,200. The bonds turned over to Young were sold to New York parties, and have since been nearly all paid off, amounting with the interest to something like \$5,000, making that virtually the cost of the house.

A postoffice was established at Glenville in June, 1873, and was kept by Joseph Kentner in Sturgis' store. Kentner held the position only a few months, and in the winter following his appointment, Bennett Cox received the commission and the office was taken to his store. Cox continued postmaster up to the end of 1880, and was succeeded by Luke Goldenstein, whose office was kept in his storeroom.

The following sketch of Glenville was prepared in 1918 by L. L. Brandt:

Glenville is a village of about four hundred population, located on the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railway near the western border of Clay County. The first settlers came in the year 1871, possibly a few as early as 1870. The postoffice was established in 1871, and the following men have served as postmasters in the order named: Joseph Kentner, Bennett Cox, Luke Goldenstein, Frank Fleshner, Charles Brandt, Albert B. Newell and William D. McGaffey, the present incumbent. It is reported that in the early days very small mail would be thrown from the train attached to a stone for the pioneers along the track, but that practice has long since been abandoned.

Thomas Carrol was the first white child born in Glenville, and Mrs. Ed Carrol, his mother, the wife of the section foreman, was the first person who died here.

The first store was started by J. W. Sturgis, the second store by Bennett Cox, and the third one, in 1877, by Luke Goldenstein, who is still in the business. Mr. Luke Goldenstein has thus been in business here over forty-one years and is said to be the oldest merchant in Clay County.

In the winter of 1871 the first school board was created, with R. Thompson, D. Fitch and R. S. Winters as members thereof. The building was erected in 1872, destroyed by a tornado in 1882 and rebuilt the same year. In 1903 a better and larger school ground was purchased and a four-room brick building erected, which is still used. The present school board consists of H. C. Kissinger, moderator; W. J. Becker, director; August Heye, treasurer. Four teachers are employed and the course consists of ten grades.

On or about the year 1877 H. M. Oliver erected the first elevator and established a lumber and coal yard.

The first blacksmith shop was started by Ed Davis in 1878. He afterwards

became the county sheriff and later was killed in an uprising at the state penitentiary, where he was deputy state warden.

G. Z. Fink established the first hotel in the year 1880.

The Glenville Cemetery Association was organized January 20, 1887, with N. Johnson, president; G. Z. Fink, secretary; and L. J. Brandt, treasurer. Previous to this time burials were made in cemeteries some distance from Glenville. At present H. C. Kissinger is president, A. B. Newell secretary, and J. J. Mohlman treasurer.

The village was incorporated May 1, 1899, the same day the first bank, the Bank of Glenville, opened its doors for business. The first chairman of the board of the village was G. Z. Fink, and H. Peters is the present chairman of said board.

From the most reliable information I could gather, it appears that the Presbyterians were the first denomination on the field, being soon followed by the Methodists and Evangelicals, but the Baptists were the first to erect a building which was done in 1881. Rev. I. D. Newell, a pioneer Baptist minister, organized the Baptist church and became its first pastor. He later on became the superintendent of public schools in Clay County for a six-year period. The first religious services were held in July, 1873, in the depot. A Sunday school was organized at this time, with J. W. Small as superintendent. Now there are two denominations represented here, the Baptist and Lutheran, the latter having by far the larger membership. During the years of 1870 to 1880 the inhabitants were largely Americans, but an immigration by Germans soon began until now possibly seventy-five to eighty per cent are Germans or their descendants.

The Bank of Glenville was begun May 1, 1899, with L. J. Brandt, president; Enno Uden, vice president; and L. L. Brandt, cashier. This bank is still doing business, and one other bank, the Farmers State Bank, has since been organized. Banks usually are an index to the wealth of the community and prosperity of the country. The two banks have a combined deposit of three-quarters of a million dollars. The reason for this lies in the fact that this is a rich, fine and level farming community. The soil is good, farmers industrious, energetic and economical. Glenville may not be able to excel other Clay Center towns in many ways, but in bank deposits we think for the size of the town we excel.

Three or four lodges and fraternal orders have been organized here, but only one remains in existence at this time, the M. W. A.

We have now: One newspaper, the Glenville Globe, A. D. Scott, publisher; one harness shop, R. C. Monismith; two general stores, Luke Goldenstein and Mat Groenewold; two banks; two elevators; Farmers Union Co-operative Association and the Shannon Grain Co., of Kansas City, Mo.; three garages, Thomas Flesher, George Gielen, and Sipple Brothers; two barber shops, Verne Jennings and Elmer Frey; two hardware stores, August Heye and Dick Heye; two stock buyers, John H. McCune and Dick Heye; one doctor, R. D. Martin; one butcher, H. Davis, Jr.; one lumber yard, Glenville Lumber Co., Charles Frisch, manager; one blacksmith shop, F. O. Schmidt; one soda fountain and soft drink parlor, J. R. Ockinga; and no lawyer. What do you think of that? Try in the best state of the world, in the best county of the state, and in the best village of the county, and if Glenville and its surrounding country is as good to its future inhabitants as it has been to its pioneers and present people, we shall all be glad. To the future generations who may read this article, we send greetings, and although dead and

forgotten we hope and trust that the old pioneers who blazed the way and endured the hardships of the pioneer life of the early days will never be forgotten.

The following has been selected as a typical history of a small town country church, space forbidding us from taking each church in the county and bringing their growth down to date:

#### HISTORY OF GLENVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

A paper written by Rev. I. D. Newell, read at the re-dedication Sunday, October 24th, of the remodeled building:

Rev. I. D. Newell and his brother-in-law, J. M. Bartlett, coming from Illinois to Nebraska in the year of 1872, first came into contact with the Baptists of the state in Exeter. Rev. J. E. Ingham was then Baptist pastor in that town, and it was through correspondence with him that Mr. Newell and Bartlett decided to come farther west.

From Exeter Mr. Newell and Mr. Bartlett pushed on westward, passing through Sutton to Harvard. At Harvard they learned of what was called "The Illinois Settlement," some miles southwest, and drove thither. A member of this settlement stated that Section 10, six miles due west of him on the section line immediately north of Charles Johnson's place, was vacant and the two brethren already mentioned went thither, running the section line by corner stakes then still standing, and Mr. Bartlett selected and later settled on the northeast quarter of said Section 10.

Seeing the section house and depot of the St. Joe & Grand Island Railroad and not knowing what they were, the two pushed on to a nameless town designated by railroad men as "Station G." There the section boss, Mr. George Carroll, showed Mr. Newell the northwest quarter of Section 6, and Mr. Newell took it as a homestead.

About this time the McCunes, Borties, McClures, Kinters, Chases, Holbrooks, Reeds, Lyons, Starrs, Holdermans, Finks, Epleys, Shiveleys, Frischs, Hunnicutts and other professing Christians secured and settled upon homesteads and pre-emptions in the vicinity of Glenville.

The first sermon in the newly laid out town was preached by Rev. Chas. Clutz, a Baptist minister, in the depot. His text was Gen. 3:15: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The people were seated on planks, wagon seats, etc. There was a good attendance and good interest. It is not remembered whether stated services were continued in this unoccupied depot or not, nor if so for how long a time.

In the spring or summer of 1873, as remembered, the first schoolhouse was built in Glenville, and the Methodists, then the strongest denomination represented in the town, organized a "Class" and a Sunday school and made appointments for stated preaching.

This was, for some time, the only preaching service in the town. As prominent among the Methodists at this time are now remembered the Holbrooks, the Neighbors, the Kinters and the Chases.

Soon after this, just how soon is not remembered, the Evangelicals, by far the strongest body of Christians in or around Glenville, organized and held service

for quite a number of years; their services were held in what was known as the "Epley Schoolhouse," some three miles southeast of Glenville, this being about the center of their membership. The leaders among the Evangelicals were the Holdermans, the Finks, the Epleys, the Shiveleys, the Frischs, the Hunnicotts and others not now recalled by name.

Later a Presbyterian Church was organized. Its membership was small, prominent among whom were the McClures and the McCunes. For some time after the Baptists built, the Presbyterians held, every two weeks, a service in the Baptist house, alternating with the Baptists. Subsequently they erected and occupied the house of worship now owned by the Evangelicals.

Because they were few in number—because the Methodist brethren had begun work on the field first and because the population was thin and widely scattered—Baptists did not deem it advisable just then to organize. In the meantime Glenville Baptists were incorporated as constituent members with the Hastings church, organized by Rev. I. D. Newell in the spring of 1873.

In the spring of 1879 Baptist members had so increased it came to be felt among them that an organization in Glenville was fully justified. Accordingly, on the 26th of April, 1879, subsequent to a call, Baptists convened in the Glenville schoolhouse for that purpose. The following is a record of that meeting:

"At a recent meeting of Baptists called in Glenville, Clay County, Nebraska, April 26, 1879, to consider the propriety of organizing a Baptist church at said place, after a season of prayer and conference, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, viz.: 'Whereas, we profess to be disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—having, as we trust, been united to Him in the ordinance of baptism; thereby openly professing our death to sin and our resurrection to newness of life; and whereas God, by His Spirit, has of late moved upon our hearts, leading us to desire more intimate communion with Him, and a nearer relationship with each other, in order that we may aid and admonish one another, therefore: Resolved, that we will at once enter into the organization of a church, to be called the Baptist Church of Glenville, Nebraska.' "

The Articles of Faith, known as the New Hampshire Article of Faith, having been read and unanimously adopted, the following persons presented letters of dismission from churches to which they had previously belonged, and by unanimous vote entered into the solemn covenant of church fellowship, viz.:

W. W. Lyon and wife, Atlantic Lyon, from the Baptist Church of Grinnell, Iowa; D. B. Randolph and his wife, M. A. Randolph, from the Baptist Church, Allegheny, Pennsylvania; R. W. Bayless and his wife, L. A. Bayless, from the First Baptist Church of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and from the First Baptist Church of Hastings, Nebraska; I. D. Newell and his wife, Annie Grace Newell; Leutzen Brandt and his wife, Gretje Brandt; H. H. Starr and his wife, Chestina Starr; Miss Minnie Brandt; Herman Brandt; John Brandt; and John Moore Bartlett.

Upon motion it was voted that Brother H. H. Starr be elected to the office of deacon, and J. M. Bartlett was elected clerk. By a vote of the church a committee consisting of Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Starr and J. M. Bartlett were authorized to correspond with Rev. J. J. Burch with reference to his becoming pastor of the church. It was resolved that a covenant and business meeting of the church be held on the Saturday before the first Sabbath in each month, the hour for meeting to be 2 o'clock.

From this time on until the spring of 1882 the church continued to have public

services once every two weeks in the Glenville schoolhouse, alternating with the Methodists. It will thus be seen that from the first the new church gave evidence of strength and vitality, and entered at once upon the work to which it accounted itself divinely appointed. In passing it should be stated that the church in whose interests we meet today is not the only Baptist Church which has had an existence in Glenville.

Some time after the organization of the present church, just how long after is not now definitely remembered, a German Baptist Church was organized. Among the members of this German church were Brother Kamm, now our beloved deacon, and his wife; Brother Pielstick, Nicholas Johnson and wife, Brother Onken and wife; Brother Brandt and his family also withdrew from the English Baptist Church and united with this German Baptist Church.

It is an item of interest that Brother Brandt was converted in the old country under the labors of our Baptist Missionary Onken and passed through severe persecutions because of his new found faith. At the time this German church was organized, bright hopes were entertained of its future. These hopes, however, were never realized, and the church after several years of struggle expired.

During the year 1881 the question of building a house for worship was agitated. The townsite company donated a lot (the present site), the Home Mission Society pledged a gift, and April 23, 1882, at a cost of about \$400 the Baptists dedicated the first house of worship erected in the town.

The services upon that occasion were as follows: Scripture reading by Rev. J. E. Rockwood; opening prayer by the pastor, Rev. H. H. Wilson; sermon by Rev. W. R. Connely, general missionary of Nebraska; dedicatory prayer by Rev. J. D. Newell; benediction by the pastor.

The church record relating to this event says: "Upon this occasion some of our Edgar brethren and sisters were with us and added much to the interest of the occasion by their singing." It might have been further added, as the writer of this sketch well remembers, that these same Edgar brethren and sisters also assisted in the way of generous contributions towards the building fund.

Upon the dedication of its new house of worship, the church at once organized its own Sunday school with forty-five pupils, six classes and the following officers and teachers: Superintendent, J. D. Newell; assistant superintendent, Mrs. J. D. Newell; secretary, Willie Pielstick; librarian, Willie Randolph; treasurer, Barney Johnson; teachers, Mrs. J. D. Newell, Mrs. M. E. Randolph, W. W. Lyon, Mrs. Mary Carson, Miss Olive Campbell and Miss Kate Bowen.

In 1879, the year of its organization, the church united with the Grand Island Association, represented in that body by the following delegates: W. W. Lyon, J. D. Newell, J. M. Bartlett and Mrs. H. H. Starr.

Thirty years have elapsed since the organization of the Glenville Baptist Church. During that time (and we make this note in a spirit of sadness) three other churches organized in the town have ceased to exist, namely—the Methodist, Presbyterian and the Evangelical. God, through His wondrous grace to us as a people, has helped us to maintain an existence, and without any serious declension and with no long periods of inactivity to continue steadily the work He committed to our hands. As we today gratefully review the past, let us praise His great and holy name for what he has done for us and through us.

ONG

(By Carl A. Sandberg)

The village of Ong is located in the southeast part of Clay County, on Section No. 13 of Logan Township. The southwest quarter of the section was owned at that time by Judge J. E. Ong, from whom the town derived its name. The plat of the town was made and dated April 22, 1886, and was filed during May, 1886. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company, at that time the B. & M. R. in Nebraska, built their line through the town in the fall of 1886. The Chicago Lumber Company opened the first place of business, managed by L. E. Dewey, which was followed by various other lines of business, among which were the Thomas Cochrane Grain Company, managed by Bert Brown; a livery barn owned by Albert Herrick and John D. McMillan; the hotel, owned and operated by S. J. Wagar. The first general store was opened by J. C. Paxton and the next general store by Ramsey Brothers, who also ran the postoffice in their building. The hardware and drug store combined was opened in the same building and managed by Merryfield and Robinson. The Paxton store was afterwards purchased by A. R. Rudd, who with Woodhead Brothers ran this business for the following fifteen years. The first church built was the Presbyterian Church, built in the spring of 1888, and Swedish building in the fall of the same year. The schoolhouse was built in 1888. Barnes and Bolton and J. F. Walker of Davenport transacted a banking business in the two general stores, and afterwards J. F. Walker put up the first bank building in 1880. This bank was named the Exchange Bank of Ong and is still in business. J. O. Walker was the first bank cashier. At this time the village had a population of about fifty. At the present time the town boasts a population of about four hundred, a number of good brick business blocks, all lines of business being well represented; three churches, three modern parsonages and a good number of dwellings which have been constructed within the past few years. Ong is spoken of by the traveling public as being one of the neatest and most well kept towns in this part of Nebraska. In early days Ong had a saloon, but this was abolished years before the state went dry. Among the old settlers still remaining here are Albert Herrick, C. A. Sandberg, Mrs. J. H. Lee, Fred Swanson, Frank Bottom and C. A. Bush.

Sweden is the name given to a village four and one-half miles northwest of the center. It also bears the more classical name—Verona. Here is a depot of the K. C. & O. R. R., a grain warehouse and a general store.

Eldon, on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley Railroad, east of Harvard, dates back to 1888. In March, 1889, Wilham Stockham opened a general store there.

Saronville, on the main line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, west of Sutton, holds a commanding position on the prairie. The church building at this point is visible for a long distance in each direction. Here were established in early days the stores of J. Florine, O. Felis, the Israckon Brothers, the agricultural warehouse of Lindberg & Olson, the drug store of L. Logerwell, the wagon shop of O. Thoren and the blacksmith shop of F. Wahlengren. The little village is about ten miles distant from the county seat.

Spring Ranche was settled by James Bainter, Robert Cargill, Lewis Thayer and D. W. Evans. The postoffice was established in 1870 with Lewis Thayer,



master. A son of the first named, called Sheridan Bainter (in honor of the hero of Winchester), was the first child born here, the date being May 11, 1871. Edward Harper died here in August, 1864, being the first death among the settlers, and E. J. Jackson and Mary N. Cargill were married in 1874, being the first marriage. The first school was opened in April, 1872, within James Bainter's dwelling, by Annie Foster; and the first schoolhouse was erected in July of that year. Elder Warwick, referred to in the history of Adams County, held the first religious services in 1871, and in 1881 the Presbyterians and Congregationalists erected churches. The mills were built in 1874 by Peck & Meston.

In August, 1873, an election was held at Cyrus Griffith's house, in Little Blue Precinct, to vote on the question of aiding Peck & Meston in building a mill near Spring Ranche. The vote was in favor of aid to the proposers in ten per cent bonds for \$7,000. There were fifty-nine votes for the proposition and fifty-four against.

The Congregational Church at Spring Ranche was dedicated January 10, 1884, by Rev. C. W. Merrill of Lincoln. The cost of the building was \$1,200, all of which was paid.

Notable business places here have been those of T. J. Kemp, postmaster and merchant; D. Burnett also carried on a general store; Mrs. C. A. Brown, a millinery store; J. Hutchinson, a wagon shop; A. Meston, the flouring mill; and D. D. Condon a blacksmith shop.

**LUMBER YARDS.** Van Wickle Grain and Lumber Co., two years; Grosshans Grain Co., Spring Ranch Grain and Supply Co.

**HARDWARE STORE.** Paul K. Bennett, one year; Hefti and Sarvis.

**IMPLEMENTS.** G. H. Paus, three years; Paus and Hall, Stewart and Bennett, Hefti and Sarvis.

**FURNITURE STORE.** None.

**ELEVATOR.** Richard Heinen, fifteen years; Van Wickle Grain Co., Grosshans Grain Co., Spring Ranch Grain and Supply Co.

**BLACKSMITH SHOP.** Peter Hansen, two years; John Sprague, John McNeil, John Tilbury, J. B. Tilbury.

**HOTEL.** Mrs. Bertha Kemp, thirty years.

The Methodist Church started here about 1870. Those now living here who were here in the early days of the town are S. W. White, E. D. Harlan and Mr. and Mrs. James Kemp. Spring Ranche has been mentioned in earlier chapters as a stopping place for stage-coaches as early as 1850, being upon the Oregon Trail, before James Bainter laid it out as a town, built the first house and started the first store here.

The town now has one general store, the Blue Valley Bank and a few other business places.

Inland, a name transferred from the old town in Adams County, dates back to 1878. In June and July, 1879, N. L. Thatcher's elevator was erected. He sold his interests to J. D. Bain and W. J. Turner of Harvard, in 1880, and they employed J. R. McIntosh as their agent. In later years the business circle comprised G. McPeak, postmaster and merchant; James Hansen, hardware dealer and blacksmith; P. Egan, grain merchant and owner of elevator; Cortnance & Company, lumber and coal dealers; P. B. McFadden, blacksmith; and Doctor Blair, physician. S. R. Dillinger built the N. W. elevator in 1889. The Egan elevator was operated by

L. Butterfield & Company with S. W. Stephenson agent. The German church, two miles south of Inland, was dedicated in February, 1882. The first railroad agent at Inland was G. W. Van Horn; Frank Thompson succeeded him; then came Charles Smith, who remained for two years, until succeeded by Joseph Neary, who was appointed in 1888. The depots of the St. Joseph & Grand Island and the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroads are at this point.

#### INLAND METHODIST REUNION

On Sunday, November 30, 1919, a homecoming service and dinner were held at the Inland church. Invitations were sent to former attendants and members in California, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Washington, D. C., and various points in Nebraska. Out of town guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lamp, Mrs. Holmes and daughter Harriett, Mr. Roy J. Peterson and family, Miss Merle Peterson and Mrs. Mary Hollister, all of Hastings. Mrs. Lamp spoke for a few minutes of days when they were associated with the church. Many who could not be present responded with reminiscence letters that added to the enjoyment. Among these were Miss Edith Lathrop of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary Cope of Fruita, Colorado; the Frank Ealer family of Orange, California; Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Smith of Pasadena, California; Mr. Henry Carter of Lincoln, Nebraska. Four former pastors sent greetings: Rev. L. Morrison, Rev. J. E. Rippeteau, Rev. Raus Hansen and Rev. G. M. Jones. Mr. Jones was the first pastor of the church and it was during his ministry that the building was constructed in 1890. He wrote that he had since helped in building other and larger churches, but considered that accomplishment during the crop failures of Nebraska the most noteworthy. He attributed the success to the vision and undaunted efforts of the men constituting the board of trustees.

Mr. G. W. Ablott, a member of that board, was present at the meeting and told how the money was raised for the building. The first effort was made on November 29, 1889, when a subscription was started. On April 9, 1890, the board of trustees was elected. In July of that year bonds were given and \$400 was secured from the Board of Church Extension, \$200 as a loan and \$200 as a donation. The contract for construction was let to Mr. Scott of Harvard for \$1,080. In September the building was ready for use. Mr. Ablott also told how the site was chosen. Mr. Fedde Fixsen offered the lots owned by the Gallentine estate, but a deed could not be secured. The committee, knowing that the railroad company owned most of the town lots, appealed to the officials. They replied that they were not permitted to give away any property, but would be willing to sell a lot to the church organization for \$10,000. The one the church stands on today was selected. In recent years the adjoining lot has been purchased.

Mr. A. M. Lathrop, so long identified with the church and the first Sunday school superintendent, gave the principal address of the morning. He began by giving a picture of Inland Township as he found it forty-seven years ago, a naked prairie occupied by buffaloes and Indians. There was no Inland or Hastings. Harvard was a station at the end of the Burlington line. Settlers from New England, New York, Illinois, Wisconsin and other eastern states made homes here and brought with them their ideas and customs, and with these they brought the Sunday school. The first organization was in School District No. 33, now known

as West Inland. It is remembered for its community spirit. It became the social center of Inland and surrounding townships. Later it was considered wise to organize in the eastern part of the township, so a beginning was made in District 45. Then with the removal of the Village of Inland to its present site and the organization of District 72, the two Sunday schools were merged at Inland. The society was housed in a building owned by Mr. G. W. Ablott and standing where the Morgan home now stands. Various denominations were holding services in the village so the school was made a Union Sunday school. Some names mentioned in connection with this early effort were James Hansen the blacksmith, Miss Spangler the teacher, Doctor Blair and Mrs. Olive Ramsey.

Later Mr. Bushnell and a group of Hastings college students came out and organized a Christian Endeavor Society. Mr. D. L. Smith was influential in this organization. When the Methodist Church came into existence the Sunday school came under the supervision of this church, but the Endeavor Society remained until more recent years when it was changed to the Epworth League, the Methodist organization for young people. After the building of the church these two societies were housed there.

The dedication took place in September. The sermon was preached by Doctor Brick of Hastings. The remaining indebtedness was cleared at that service.

In closing Mr. Lathrop paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Sunday school teachers and ministers. To them he gave much of the credit for the wiping out of the saloon. But he said that the battle is not ended yet, and he challenged the Sunday schools at Inland and all over the nation to combat this evil and abolish it from the land.

Special music was furnished by Mrs. Alla Scherich and son Clarence, and Miss Grace Ingalsbe. A chorus choir and the congregation joined in the singing of the old hymns.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE PRESS AND PROFESSIONS

CLAY COUNTY PRESS—BENCH AND BAR OF THE COUNTY—REVIEW OF BAR OF CLAY COUNTY—THE MEDICAL PROFESSION—DOCTORS IN RECENT YEARS—DENTISTS—T. E. CASTERLINE—A. R. RAY.

#### CLAY COUNTY PRESS

It seldom rains but it pours over those great prairies. A look over the census statistics will be sufficient to confirm this conclusion, for after the tide of immigration began to flow over the land in 1870-71, it never ebbed, but continued to grow deeper, year by year, until the county was literally covered with substantial farmers and the villages filled with enterprising citizens. Among the pioneers came the typesetter. He came to grow up with, and aid in building up the interests of, the new country, and he succeeded in the last named object. He was a martyr pioneer. He felt like Macdonough, the poet of the Press Association, who wrote as follows:

“Then we can wake the echoes of these prairies,  
    ’Round to antipodean lands or waters;  
And make the gaping world ask us, where is  
    Nebraska, fairest of Columbia’s daughters?  
Where Indians erewhile lifted pale-face hair, is  
    Now for progress and intelligence, headquarters,  
And all the boons that our young State possesses,  
    Owe their appearance to the mighty presses.”

#### HARVARD

The Harvard Champion was established in 1872, as the pioneer journal of the county, by Julius Eaton, who removed the office at the close of the year. Prior to this time, however, a manuscript news-sheet was issued by the I. O. G. T., G. W. Bemis being a contributor.

The Harvard Leader was issued in the spring of 1873, by Webster Eaton, continued publication for seven months, and wilted under the frosts of adversity.

The Harvard Advocate was founded in January, 1874, by W. A. Connell.

Although a man of some ability as an editor, yet he, like many of his craft, loved ardent drink, and gave too much of his time to spirits to be successful. Losing his patronage, mainly on account of his intemperate habits, his paper, after an existence of about two years, “passed in its types,” and the editor emigrated to other fields of labor. After Connell had taken his departure, he was succeeded in the enterprise of journalism by D. T. Sherman, who established a paper in the fall

of 1876, called the Harvard Sentinel. This sheet, however, like all the others, had a somewhat limited existence, but enjoyed a reasonable share of prosperity. After running for about two years, he removed the material to Sterling, Nebraska. Captain G. W. Limbocker purchased the Sentinel subscription list, and had already begun the publication of the Clay County Journal, beginning March 18, 1879. The Journal had an existence of around two decades, James Salisbury being its manager in the middle nineties.

The Courier was established by Southworth & Colvin, January 1, 1885, and is still running in 1921, its history being more carefully detailed in the Harvard chapter.

The Sutton Times was issued June 20, 1873, by Wellman & Brakeman, followed by Wellman & White, then Wellman Brothers, and in 1886 Frank E. Wellman was sole owner. He moved the office to York and established the York Republican.

The Clay County Herald was issued June 21, 1873, by J. M. Sechler and W. J. Cowan, and continued publication until the fall of that year.

Clay County Globe was established July 14, 1875, by F. M. Comstock and J. S. LeHew. On October 1st, that year E. H. White became proprietor. He sold to I. D. Evans, who, in 1880, merged the name into the Sutton Register. The Globe was a semi-weekly republican journal.

The Democrat was founded February 1, 1884, by Steinmetz & Brainard. Brainard's interest was sold to W. A. Nelson, and he with Mr. Steinmetz published this journal until 1889, after the latter was appointed receiver at McCook.

The Nebraska Citizen was published at Sutton, in 1884, by Mr. Locke, but its life was of short duration.

The Sutton Advertiser was established August 26, 1887, by J. W. Johnson, with William Nance as foreman. In September, J. L. Paschal took that position. During the middle nineties, Judge E. P. Burnett took charge of this paper and ran it for a decade or so, then it was issued by the Sutton Printing Co., L. B. Stiner editor, and for a few years by W. H. Carson. S. A. Fischer, its present energetic editor, took charge about 1909, and has consistently issued a creditable paper since then.

The Fairfield News was started in Fairfield on June 7, 1877, by J. H. Case and O. G. Maury. The first issue of the paper was made on the 7th of that month. The establishment of the paper was attended with the most liberal encouragement of the citizens of the town, who guaranteed for it a list of 300 subscribers, eight columns of advertisements, and a bonus of \$300. The paper was a six-column quarto size, republican in politics, and had a circulation of about 350. After about two years' operation, Case retired from the concern, and it was controlled by Maury for about one year, when it was sold to J. W. Small. G. M. Prentice was editor of the Fairfield News in October, 1883.

The Register was established February 20, 1880, by I. D. Evans. On June 3, 1886, Mr. Evans issued his valedictory. In this paper he says: "For more than six years, each week, without a single skip, it has appeared under the management now retiring." F. M. Brown issued his salutatory. The latter was then a resident of fifteen years' standing. A notice from the Register of July 15, 1886, gives a very clear idea of the estimation in which the immigrants were held: "Monday last about forty-six Russians, big and little, old and young, with their

bags and baggage, were congregated on the platform at the depot, and when No. 2 came in they took their departure for other pastures. There was scarcely a dry eye in Sutton when the train pulled out, but our modesty prevented us from inquiring whether those eyes were wet with the tears of sorrow or joy. We hope those people will come back to see us after we are dead." F. M. Brown ran the Register during the remainder of his life, assisted by his son, Charles M. Brown, who is the present editor and publisher.

I. E. Beery, who in January, 1885, settled at Fairfield and assumed editorial charge of the News, died August 12, 1886. A. R. Degge took his position at once, and carried on the News until Mr. Randall assumed the editorship. On May 5, 1887, W. S. Randall issued his salutatory as editor of the News. On January 2, 1890, he wrote as follows: "With this issue the News enters upon its fourteenth volume, being the oldest paper in Clay County. There were other papers in the county before the News was established, but they have removed to other parts. There are papers in the county that have been under one management longer than the News, but we claim for it the oldest in the county."

The later title, News-Herald, of the '90s indicates that the ultimate fate of the News was fusion with its younger rival, the Herald, with W. S. Randall as editor.

The Fairfield Herald was founded in December, 1881, by J. L. Oliver. On account of the opinions promulgated by the News on county seat and local matters, much dissatisfaction and enmity was aroused against it by those holding adverse opinions. So far were these petty disagreements carried that in opposition to the News a second paper was begun by a stock company composed of a number of the citizens of the town, to which they gave the name of the Fairfield Herald, the company being known as the Herald Publishing Company. The capital stock of the concern is \$1,000, and is divided into 100 shares of \$10 each. The company is operated by the thirty-seven stockholders, who meet quarterly and choose an editor, two assistants and a business manager. With the first starting W. T. Newcomb was chosen editor, and later, about 1890, S. G. Wilcox, until its title was merged into the dual "News-Herald." In 1897 A. J. Mercer & Son were conducting the News-Herald; in 1899, G. A. Hobson; 1901, L. R. Jones; 1903, Wm. M. Wheeler; 1907, Herald Printing Co., F. C. Scott; and 1910-1914, I. W. Evans.

The Fairfield Methodist was issued from the News office by Rev. C. E. Lewis in September, 1886. This was a monthly journal, but continued only six months.

The Fairfield Tribune started about 1891, but in a few years joined the procession of "ex-journals" of Fairfield's press history.

The Call, a college monthly, was issued in 1888 from the News office by Messrs. N. M. Graham, William Hilton, A. C. Epperson and L. W. Smith. The latter was editor. The last number was issued in March, 1888.

The Fairfield Saturday Call was published in April, 1889, by Maupin and Burkhalter.

The Fairfield Tribune was operated through the '90s by F. M. Coleman, who has been a veteran newspaper man of Fairfield. In 1898, Joe Nau took this journal over. In 1900, another Fairfield journal was appearing, the Fairfield Messenger, labeled as a consolidation of the "True Light" and "Tribune." This was then conducted by Coleman & Corey, but later F. C. Scott edited it.

The culmination of the checkered career of the Fairfield press is that



HOME-MADE CARTOON OF EDGAR BROWN OF HARVARD USED IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN THE EARLY '80S. PRINTED IN THE SUTTON REGISTER





while the town for many years had two or more papers at a time, for the last few years it has had but one, the *Fairfield Auxiliary*. Under the title of this paper appears the explanatory caption, "Webster Says: 'Auxiliary, a Helper; An Assistant.' That Is What We'll Try To Be." This paper is conducted by F. M. & H. W. Coleman. It bears the distinction of probably being the only local weekly publication or newspaper of that title in the country, its only rival so far as it knows to share the name being the *Publisher's Auxiliary*, the national trade journal of the printing trade and general press, which expressed itself that it certainly had no strings on the name.

In November, 1875, F. M. Comstock established a journal at Edgar, but the office fell into the hands of W. J. Waite, and altogether the publication was not carried on over one year. One night the office was entered and the material carried away, one humorist having remarked that some subscriber who didn't want to pay for his paper evidently entered the office one night with a gripsack, picked the thing up and carried it away.

The *Edgar Leader* was founded in 1877 by H. A. Day and C. E. Keith. In 1878 S. T. Caldwell and E. E. Howard bought the material, which they sold to M. J. Hull. With this material he began the *Review* in May, 1878.

The *World* was established in October, 1886, by Shafe Kautzman. After a little while the office was sold to Smith & Ward, who established the *Gazette* at Clay Center. He then purchased the *Post*, and changed the name to the *Post-World*. After a few months Dr. T. E. Casterline became owner, and published it as the *Post*. During the early part of the campaign of 1888 the *World* was revived as a daily paper at Edgar by Mr. Kautzman, who equipped the office anew. This he moved to Superior, Nebraska, in August of that year. He conducted the *Daily World* there until the spring of 1889.

The *Edgar Post* was established March 5, 1885, by Dr. T. E. Casterline, who has been owner much of the time since. Shortly after he sold a half interest to Alfred Bates, who removed to Davenport, Nebraska, leaving the doctor sole owner until the *World* was established, when the offices were consolidated under the title of *Post-World*. Later the office became Dr. Casterline's property, when the name *World* was dropped. In July, 1889, W. H. Gates and F. M. Coleman leased the office. On January 1, 1890, Mr. Gates returned to the service of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, leaving Mr. Coleman in charge. James McNally ran the *Post* about 1894. The *Post* is still running in 1921 by Earl C. Rickel, who has been its editor for a decade or so last past.

The *Edgar Times* was founded in May, 1878, under the name *Review*, by M. J. Hull. The journal subsequently passed into the hands of Kautzman & Barrington, who in July, 1884, sold the office to H. G. Lyon and F. L. Harman. On January 1, 1885, Mr. Harman retired, and in November, 1885, W. B. Good became partner, and continued so until June 18, 1886, when he moved to California. With the exception of the short terms of Messrs. Harman & Good's connection with the *Times*, Mr. Lyon has been owner continuously since 1884. In May, 1885, Rebecca Dare took charge of the woman's department of the *Times*.

The *Edgar Sun* was purchased in 1907 of Mr. Harvey Rousey by Dr. T. E. Casterline, and is in 1921 still owned by R. W. E. Casterline of Edgar, though operated on a lease by Editor Donohoe. Asa D. Scott was editor for several years up until 1919. During his incumbency, following the example of the *Chicago*

Tribune which modestly admits it is the greatest newspaper in the world, the Sun carried the caption, "Has the largest circulation in Edgar and vicinity of any newspaper published in the world."

The Clay County Call was issued at Edgar by Kautzman & Barrington, December 25, 1884. It continued publication only a few months, when the office was sold to Dr. Casterline.

The Clay Center Citizen was established in February, 1881, by W. A. Connell, who carried it, at a loss for six months, and left the place condemning all but the county officials, who, he stated, were the only citizens who had any self respect or intelligence. The office was sold to a stock company, who continued publication for a short time, and in November, 1881, sold the material, which was moved at once to Fairfield and used in the office of the Fairfield Herald.

The Sun was founded August 22, 1884, by W. L. Palmer, as a republican journal. It is a very well conducted journal, and has become one of the very best weekly papers in Nebraska. In 1921 Fred B. Howard is editor and publisher and to The Sun is due credit for much of the material recorded in the World War Chapter of this work and this chapter speaks graphically for its comprehensive and excellence in style and quality.

The following short tribute appeared at the time of Editor Palmer's death in March, 1910:

W. L. Palmer, editor of the Clay Center Sun died suddenly and unexpectedly Sunday night about 10 o'clock. He and Mrs. Palmer had been to church, and, after returning home, Mr. Palmer sat down by the stove and Mrs. Palmer busied herself preparing for retiring. When all was ready she spoke to Mr. Palmer, who did not reply and on going to him she found that he was dead. Mr. Palmer was a successful newspaper man and has done good work in his field at Clay Center, during his twenty years or more residence there.

The Democratic Publishing Company was organized in December, 1888, and purchased the Gazette office at Clay Center. The organized members of the company were F. C. Matteson and E. J. Hoerger, of Sutton, W. T. Perry and G. A. Herzog, of Harvard, L. L. Johnson, of Inland, J. G. Glazier and Otis Holmes, of Edgar, S. R. Barnett and C. J. Furer, of Fairfield. J. G. Glazier was chosen president and E. J. Hoerger treasurer; C. J. Furer, G. A. Herzog and L. L. Johnson, directors. Otis Holmes and S. R. Barnett were employed to edit the proposed journal, which was issued in January, 1889.

The Clay Center Gazette was issued in April, 1887, by Smith & Ward.

The Clay County Patriot, an independent republican newspaper has been conducted since 1893 or 1894 as the second paper in Clay Center. Henry B. Funk was an early publisher. In 1908, J. G. Jessup was editor. In 1910, Paul T. Seely took the editorial desk and held it for almost a decade. During 1919 and 1920, V. L. Chipman was editor and early in 1921, Chas. Epperson, son of Judge A. C. Epperson, a rising young Clay County attorney, took over the establishment and changed its name to the Clay County Republican.

This same office published each week an attractive little paper, the Ong Sentinel.

Another enterprising Clay County press venture was the Glenville Bee.

The Deweese Recorder was issued in July, 1886, by Dr. L. J. Forney. The paper was printed in the News office, at Fairfield, but continued publication for only a few weeks.

The Student was issued in October, 1888, and the fourth number was issued on the day of the Presidential inauguration. May Martin was editor; Blanche Dalton, Mand Mohler, Zilla David and Joe G. Fell, associate editors; Clyde Babcock, solicitor, and A. V. Storm, manager. The little journal was printed in the Journal office.

#### THE BENCH AND BAR OF CLAY COUNTY

The law travels hand in hand with the first encroachments of civilization upon the wild, barren prairie. Of course, in the first seven years of the settlement and existence of Clay County, the machinery of the state courts had not reached this young community.

In most instances, the touch of the citizens with the courts starts with the lower, or local courts. This was true to even a greater extent in the earlier days of the community. The history of the State Supreme Court, the highest in Nebraska, has been sketched in the State Historical section of this work. The history of the District Court has likewise been briefly touched upon therein, but the story of the District Court of Clay County will be treated in more detail in this chapter. Next below the District Court, coming down the ladder of justice, is the County or oftentimes called the Probate Court. This Court has jurisdiction of all probate matters, the settlement of estates, handling of matters of guardianship, civil matters involving amounts up to \$1,000 and concurrent justice of peace jurisdiction.

A picturesque cornerstone in the history of justice of any county, is the Justice of Peace Court. In more modern times, since automobiles have rendered access to the county seat towns less difficult in both time consumed for travel and ease in making the trip, the importance of this local court has dwindled, as the county and district courts have gradually absorbed its business. But in the "horse and buggy" period, a man with a grievance would file it with his local justice, for in those days the law permitting the selection of a justice of peace, or two, if chosen, for each township, was more carefully carried out. The local magistrate perhaps carried his cases and trials with more informality, but no doubt with greater interest than the county court trials of the present day generally present.

The first record of the district court of Clay County dates back to May 16, 1873, when Sheriff Kearney and Clerk Brown opened court in the usual form. Judge Gantt's letter stating: "The Legislature having made some confusion in amending the act fixing terms of court in this district, adjourn court till Friday, May 23, 1873, at which time I will be there to hold your court." In accordance with this instruction court was adjourned to the day named. On May 23d Judge Gantt was present and the first grand jury was impanelled: Daniel Cronin, W. F. Guthrie, William Todd, G. T. Warren, C. M. Turner, R. N. Brown, Richard Bayly, Leroy S. Winters, Louis N. Bryant, J. Rowley, F. Northrop, Joel Longstreth, T. Weed, R. S. Balliett, George W. Bemis and I. N. Clark. A committee comprised H. W. Gray, A. J. Weaver and J. D. Hayes. On their report W. H. Mitchell, H. C. Griffith and Jones M. McCall were admitted. The first suit tried here was that entitled Percy Reed vs. J. R. Maltby. Judgment was rendered for \$384.22. This was followed by Jordan & Ruffner vs. Robbins & Marthis & Weston vs. Cheeny & Farmer, and the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad

Company vs. Clay County. The first criminal case was that of the State vs. Lorenzo Snow, for assault and battery, tried by B. F. Hockett, Ezra Brown, P. H. Manchester, Isaiah Alley, S. C. Sloat, A. Hardy, J. M. Ramsey, A. B. Smith, E. E. Lake, Alex Weston, A. M. Lathrop and J. F. Sawtell, the first petit jury. Snow was sentenced to pay \$10 and all costs, and to be held in Fillmore County jail until such sums were paid.

The indictment of Daniel A. Smith for assault with intent to kill came next. He was next indicted for manslaughter, but the trial was continued. Dr. M. V. B. Clarke and Attorney H. W. Gray were appointed commissioners of insanity.

The second term of court was opened in May, 1874. Robert G. Brown and A. A. McCoy were admitted to the bar, and D. G. Hull, W. H. Morris and R. G. Brown were appointed a committee to examine future applicants for admission. The first petition for divorce was presented by Charles J. Martin, followed by E. G. Glazier, Susan Dunnell, Hosea W. Gray and Charles Church, who based the cause of action on the desertion by or continued absence of the defendants. William A. Farmer, E. H. White and George W. Bemis were admitted to the bar. The first declaration of citizenship was made at this session, by John W. Price, who came to the United States with his father when a child.

In February, 1875, a special term of court was held. Marion S. Edgington and I. J. Starruck were admitted as members of the bar. A few petitions for divorces were presented; the trial of D. A. Smith was continued, and a number of indictments for selling liquor without license and for gaming returned. The injunction suit entered by the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company against the commissioners was decided in favor of the latter, and the railroad company mulcted in costs. Joseph S. Le Hew was admitted to the bar.

In June, 1876, Judge S. B. Pound presided at the court house in Sutton. The terms was given up to civil business, of which foreclosures of mortgages formed a large part. A forgery case, and the trials of Sorgenson and Masterson for unnameable offenses occupied some time; while the trial of D. A. Smith resulted in a verdict of not guilty.

The fall term of 1876 was opened October 2d, by Judge A. J. Weaver. A number of persons were admitted to citizenship; the effort to have school taxes equitably adjusted between the county and Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company was successful, but the company had the tax for mill bonds perpetually enjoined.

The summer term of 1887 commenced May 30th; A. L. Lemont, of Wisconsin, was permitted to practice here, also S. H. Sedgwick. The business was entirely of a civil character as was also the calendar presented in November of that year.

On May 20, 1878, Judge Gaslin opened court in the Odd Fellows Hall, at Sutton. James R. Candy was indicted for assaulting Edmund Coen, but his trial was continued to the next term, when a jury returned a verdict of not guilty. T. A. Barbour was admitted to the bar. In November Candy was subjected to a second trial, found guilty and sentenced to a one year's term in State's prison.

In May, 1879, Judge Weaver presided. The suit of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company against the commissioners was successful, in that the court decided that the taxes complained of were illegal, except in the amount of \$3,000, and the defendants were enjoined from collecting the taxes of 1875, except

such sum of \$3,000. In November Frank A. Sweezy was admitted to the bar, and also George W. Lienbocker.

In November, 1880, S. G. Wilcox and R. W. Christy were admitted to the bar, and an indictment against James Moore, a negro, for an attempt to murder Johanna Donohue was returned; indictments were also returned against John Urbaur, for an attempt to kill Henry Krann. Both were found guilty. Urbaur was sentenced to a three years' term, and Moore to a twelve years' term in the penitentiary; while the comparatively innocuous horse stealer, Foreman, received six years' imprisonment. B. C. Oyler, Arthur Williams and F. W. Burdick were admitted to the bar in May, 1881, and E. W. Lewis in November. Andres M. Anderson was indicted for murder (poisoning John Johnson); a jury of whom H. J. Grant was foreman, returned a verdict of "not guilty" in May, 1882, and the prisoner was discharged.

A good deal of the time of the court in 1882 was given to the admission of residents to United States citizenship, and not a little to petitions for divorce. A few indictments for horse stealing were presented and several for illegal sale of liquor. The injunction suit entered by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, to restrain the commissioner of Clay County from collecting court house and jail tax (\$619.53), was successful, and the tax was declared illegal by Judge Morris. In May, 1883, J. L. Epperson and C. J. Martin were admitted members of the bar; in October, 1884, H. H. Hendee was admitted, and in May, 1885, J. B. Cessan, of the supreme court bar, was admitted to the bar of this district; Charles K. Hart of the New York bar was also admitted. The indictment for murder against John Taylor was presented at this term, and in May, 1886, an indictment against William Taylor was returned. A verdict of "not guilty" was returned in each case. The boys were subsequently indicted for injuring fences and other property.

In May, 1887, the liquor cases were presented in number, and petitions for divorce or for modification of former petitions, helped to swell the volume of civil business. In October, 1887, information for the murder of Fred Dickman was entered against August Mentz. He was found guilty of murder in the second degree October 26, 1887, by a jury of whom George E. Birge was foreman, and was sentenced to imprisonment for twelve years, to be kept in solitary confinement on July 19th of each year.

E. E. Hairgrove, C. J. Bills and Morris H. Pope were admitted to the bar May 15, 1888; a year later H. N. Hairgrove and Edward P. Mitchell were admitted.

The officers of the court at the close of 1889 were judge, Hon. W. H. Morris; county attorney, J. L. Epperson; reporter, S. A. Searle; clerk, J. E. Wheeler; sheriff, E. D. Davis. The members of the bar were J. L. Epperson, R. G. Brown, B. F. McLoney, E. E. Hairgrove, E. A. Mitchell, T. A. Barbour, S. W. Christy, T. H. Matters, W. P. Shockey, Charles Epperson, William M. Clark, L. P. Crouch, L. G. Hurd, W. S. Prickett, G. W. Bemis, E. P. Burnett, M. S. Edgington, H. M. Pope, W. M. Hairgrove, Hartigan & Albright.

On March 30, 1885, Herbert H. Hude, Rees T. Rees, John Llewellyn, David Burnett, George Van Gilder, and Harvey Barnhart were brought to trial for the lynching of Jones and Mrs. Taylor. Judge Burnett presided. Colonel Dilworth and John D. Hayes, of Hastings, R. G. Brown, of Sutton, and T. H. Matters, of

Harvard, represented the state; Messrs. Reagan, of Hastings, L. G. Hurd, of Harvard, and J. L. Epperson, of Fairfield, the defendants. Old Mrs. Jones, aged sixty-six, was one of the principal witnesses, but the evidence was not sufficient to convict and so Judge Burnett declared the prisoners to be free. Clay Center was almost as full of people as was the court room, and the order of the court was received with cheers within and without.

The execution of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Taylor and Tom Jones took place March 15, 1885. It appears that about 1 o'clock that morning a party of fifty men arrived at the sod-house ranche of old Mrs. Jones (four and one-half miles southeast of Spring Ranche Mills), mother of Tom and sister. A call was made on the inmates to evacuate the house, which, for a time was unheeded but was ultimately acceded to. A number of persons, including William Foster, or Texas Bill, Nelson Celley, N. C. Clark and one Ferrel presented themselves and were made prisoners, then came Tom Jones, Mrs. Taylor and Luther Wiggins, a boy herder, who came three weeks before from Hastings, so that old Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Taylor's child were the only persons left in the sod-house. The mob carried the persons about one-fourth of a mile from the building and made an attempt to extort a confession from them. Mrs. Taylor is said to have acknowledged that her brother hired a man to burn Llewellyn's barn. The crowd marched the prisoners to the bridge over the Blue, near the sod-house, where Mrs. Taylor and Jones prayed loudly in the Welsh language for some minutes, when they were led under the bridge and hanged. The other prisoners were brought to the house of R. T. Rees, where N. C. Clark was ordered to leave the country at once, and the others told it would be well for them to leave also.

In the morning Nelson Celley returned to the sod-house to feed the stock and saw the bodies dangling from the bridge. Later the boy, Barker, was sent out to give information, when Joseph Meehan, John Quinn, Ed Young and Ed Rollins repaired to the scene. Mr. Meehan ordered the bodies to be left there until the arrival of the coroner. A jury, composed of J. C. Ward, Jacob Eller, Cal Earnest, James Leitch, H. M. Goldsmith and M. Wiliman, with Jesse F. Eller, coroner, found that death ensued from hanging, the act being done by persons unknown. The ropes used were ordinary mule halters. Evidently the ropes were placed round the victims' necks while standing on the ground, then drawn across the stringers of the bridge and pulled upon by the executioners until the man and woman were strangled.

In former pages references are made to the murders perpetrated in this county, and the action of the court in the trial of the alleged murderers related. In the pioneer chapter and in the pages devoted to the cities of the county the many stirring encounters with the Indians and deaths resulting therefrom, as well as from accident, are referred to.

During the winter of 1883 Mark Percival was frozen to death while under the influence of liquor. The widow brought suit against one of the persons who sold her husband liquor, and in the fall of 1885 a verdict for \$2,500 was given, the trial taking place before Judge Morris, of Clay Center.

The murder of John Roberts, of Spring Ranche, was perpetrated January 8, 1885. The first reports of this crime credited it to the Taylors, as Mrs. Taylor, a Welsh woman, threatened the Welsh man, Roberts, with punishment if he dared to take any timber from an eighty-acre tract which she claimed on the Blue.

Elijah Smith, an old resident of Logan Township, while engaged in burning an old straw stack, was burned to death in 1885.

Mrs. Joseph Warner, who resided five miles south of Edgar, was poisoned by aconite in November, 1885.

The railroad disaster at Deweese occurred October 19, 1886. It appears a construction train backing down to Deweese, carrying ninety-five men to dinner, struck a bull near the house of George Shepard. The cars were thrown from the track into the draw twenty feet, killing six men and wounding several. The names of the killed were: R. H. Marvin, hotel keeper at Deweese; George Burke, St. Louis; Dennis O'Connor, Weston, Mo.; Dennis Hamilton, Michigan; Robert Collins, England, and Thomas Kelly. Eight others suffered severe injuries.

John Harvonic committed suicide in November, 1884.

Fred Ronzo committed suicide in September, 1887, while imprisoned at Clay Center, pending his trial for attempting to kill his wife.

James McCullough committed suicide by stabbing in May, 1889. The scene of this tragedy is eight miles northeast of Glenville.

Jesse Gordon, the eight year old son of Charles Gordon, was buried in the hopper at Minor's elevator and smothered to death.

The accident at Sutton, October 13, 1887, resulted in the death of the eight year old son of George Conn. The boy attempted to jump on a moving train, but falling had one arm and both legs cut off instantly, as if by a knife. Before he could be rescued he was struck by a bolt and killed.

W. R. Prosser was killed by the cars at Hansen in March, 1887.

In August, 1889, a three year old son of T. G. Dumke wandered into a field of sowed corn which his father was engaged in cutting down. The child was hidden in the edge of the thick heavy growth, so that the father drove by, the unfeeling mower cutting off the boys feet as readily as it cut down the corn. A sister sent in search of the little one found him covered in the stalks, and gave the alarm. Doctor Ray was summoned, but could not save the boy.

#### A REVIEW OF CLAY COUNTY'S BAR

Considerable has already been said by T. A. Barbour and other contributors to these compilations concerning various members of the Clay County Bar, and probably practically every member has been repeatedly named herein. Since Mr. Barbour died some five years ago, Robert G. Brown of Sutton is probably the dean of the Clay County Bar in point of service. He came to Sutton in 1871 after admission in Illinois. He has not practiced actively in recent years. But that some connected review might be made of where the various members who have moved away went to, and who are still living, the compiler consulted Mr. Brown and in so far as he could, he has narrated these points.

Of the early practitioners of the county, A. A. McCoy moved away long ago, M. S. Edgington, pioneer attorney of Edgar is deceased. I. J. Starbuck, went to Salt Lake City from Clay County; A. L. Lemon, practicing at Sutton, about 1875 is dead. T. A. Barbour practicing almost forty years at Harvard died in 1916; Frank A. Sweeney left Edgar and went to Blue Hill. S. G. Wilcox here in 1880 left. S. W. Christy, the other pioneer attorney of Edgar who remained

there until recent years. B. C. Oyler of Harvard and Arthur Williams of Glenville were admitted, but never practiced. This also classifies F. W. Burdick, and E. W. Lewis of Fairfield. J. L. Epperson started in 1883 at Fairfield and practiced until his death. C. J. Martin of Clay Center was admitted but never practiced. E. E. Hairgrove of Sutton went to Kansas City some ten years or so ago. H. W. Gray was admitted at about 1872, J. S. LeHew was another very early Sutton attorney, about 1875, who went to McCook. John E. Bagley another of the Sutton Bar before courthouse was at Clay Center went to Ogden, Utah, and E. H. White went to Texas. J. L. Stone is dead and W. F. Stone is a railroad mail agent in Lincoln. L. P. Crouch was another early Sutton attorney, and G. W. Bemis went to York. W. N. Hairgrove practiced at Sutton. B. F. McLoney and W. P. Shockley were early Harvard attorneys, long since out of the game. W. M. Clark went to Oklahoma, and E. P. Burnett, another early Clay Center practitioner is dead. W. S. Prickett is deceased. This far we have accounted for almost all of the very early practitioners in the first era of the county's development.

In the past thirty years or so, the number of lawyers in Clay County has been much fewer, and their tenure in practice longer.

CLAY CENTER—Of course, since it captured the county seat, the main center of practice has been here. The main practitioners through the '90s and succeeding decade were F. B. Churchill, J. M. Jones, J. B. Scott, of Sutton most the time, Mark Spanogle, of Hurd & Spanogle at Harvard part of the time, and in recent years at Bridgeport; J. L. Epperson and his son Ambrose C. Epperson. After he came over from Sutton and took the county judgeship, L. B. Stiner was here, but in recent years has been at Hastings. In 1907 those practicing at Clay Center were Merton L. Corey, now with Federal Land Bank at Omaha, who achieved state wide reputation in his work in the M. W. A. rate cases. J. L. and A. C. Epperson, the latter having served upon the Supreme Court Commission; Thomas Martin, County Judge H. C. Palmer, L. B. Stiner, now Mayor of Hastings; and later Corey & Gilmore. The present Bar at Clay Center in 1921, are A. C. Epperson, C. H. Epperson, Jr.; County Judge A. C. Krebs, H. C. Palmer and J. E. Ray and County Attorney Cloyd L. Stewart.

SUTTON—Since the county seat moved, Sutton has not been a main artery of law practice. But for a time afterwards it had R. G. Brown, L. P. Crouch, Hairgrove, G. W. Bemis, and M. C. King in the '90s. J. B. Scott has practiced at Sutton for many years and is the only active attorney there now. L. B. Stiner was formerly there, John Louis Horn stayed a while.

HARVARD—Years ago L. P. Crouch and some others practiced there, but the main law history of Harvard centers around T. A. Barbour, deceased, Judge Leslie G. Hurd, for twelve years district judge, and now living at Bridgeport, and Thomas H. Matters, who moved to Omaha ten or fifteen years ago. John A. Moore, of Omaha, who achieved some notoriety in securing against the Rock Island and Union Pacific railroads the largest judgment for personal injuries ever secured in Nebraska, \$108,000, was at Harvard with the Matters office for a time. Mr. Moore had been riding the prosperous wave of damage litigation just before the workmen's compensation law was passed and this aggravated his measure of damages. Boslaugh & Moore, as a firm succeeded to Judge Hurd's office when he went on the district bench. In 1907, Barbour, Moore and Paul E. Boslaugh, now partner of Mayor Stiner at Hastings, were the local Harvard Bar. C. E. Decature came



in 1912. In recent years George W. Miller and H. G. Wellensiek have been the Harvard Bar.

EDGAR—M. S. Edgington and S. W. Christy were the members of the Edgar Bar for many years. S. A. Searle, who became quite a prominent lawyer in Omaha, practiced here. L. E. Cottle became a partner with Mr. Christy about 1909 and after his return from military service ten years later removed to Gering, Nebraska, and in 1920 Edgar was without a resident attorney. W. L. Minor and C. H. Epperson of Fairfield and C. L. Stewart of Clay Center giving especial resident attention and special trips to Edgar very often.

FAIRFIELD—J. L. Epperson, of course, was here for many years, but in the later years of his life was at Clay Center. But his son, Charles H. Epperson, except for a short period in a southern state, has maintained an office at Fairfield continuously and been a very faithful public-spirited citizen. L. B. Stiner practiced here about 1898. W. L. Minor came some twenty years ago into practice and has remained consistently at Fairfield. Hugh A. Steavenson was here a while.

#### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

The modern generation, who can step to the telephone, call the doctor, await a few anxious moments while the physician's automobile speedily brings him to the beside of the sick person, is very apt to overlook the prime importance of the "country doctor" of some forty years ago. Then it was a long wait, a period of intense suspense, while the doctor sitting half awake in a buggy, with the faithful horse steering the course, would be slowly ambling toward his destination. To make a good fraction of as many calls, visits and examinations as the modern physician can dispense with in a regular day's work, his predecessor of a generation ago had to put in many more tedious, tiresome hours. Words cannot begin to record the credit due to the earlier doctors of Clay County, or any other community. The least we can do at this time is to compile a memorial roster of these faithful servants of the public health.

The Central Nebraska Medical Society was organized at Sutton, June 24, 1876. Dr. J. R. C. Davis, of Aurora, was chosen president; Dr. M. V. B. Clark, of Sutton, secretary. In 1881 Dr. William Knapp, of York, was chosen president, and Dr. A. O. Kendall, of Sutton, secretary and treasurer. As related in the history of Hall County, this organization has been kept up in one form or another down to the present day.

The register of physicians of Clay County contains the following names:

#### REGISTERED IN 1881

Marcus W. Wilcox, Sutton	L. J. Forney
Benjamin C. Oliver	S. A. Allen
Thomas E. Casterline,	D. F. Anderson
Edgar	T. R. Hall
Charles Palmer	R. B. Conn
M. V. B. Clark, Sutton	John T. Fleming, Har-
A. O. Kendall	vard
I. D. Howard, Harvard	Mary A. Howard
Owen B. Canfield	John H. Case
Mark A. Perkins	E. T. Cassell

## HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY

## REGISTERED IN 1882

G. M. Prentice	John Rehsteiner
Michael T. Robinson	

## REGISTERED IN 1883

A. Alexson	C. T. Laurence
A. H. Keller	Thomas P. Butler

## REGISTERED IN 1884

O. P. Shoemaker	S. C. Youngman
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## REGISTERED IN 1885

John F. Edgar	G. A. Blair
Joseph E. Spatz	F. A. Butler
F. W. Rose	Francis M. Wilcox
A. J. Bacon	

## REGISTERED IN 1886

J. M. Borkner	A. L. Saline
Thomas McCrackan	Daniel Matson
H. L. Vradenburg	Wm. H. Miller

## REGISTERED IN 1887

R. R. Blair	C. A. Dean
G. W. Randall	J. W. Kissinger
Edward D. Barrett	M. A. Perkins
A. M. Pickett	Wm. F. Lee
D. G. Thompson	

## REGISTERED IN 1888

John S. Gallison	Chas. M. Williams
E. O. Boardman	Adam R. Ray
Thomas C. Malone	H. M. Bailey
Sarah A. Scott	Peter Janns

## REGISTERED IN 1889

William Tanner	James H. Conrad
Royal Woods	Milo L. Kensington
L. C. Holmes	I. W. Houghey
L. W. Ramaley	

Dr. A. J. Smith registered in 1915, and in 1920 Drs. Latta and Archerd were still practicing in Clay Center.

## HARVARD

Dr. F. A. Butler registered in 1885 and for years was one of deans of Harvard medical circle, with I. D. Howard, who registered in 1891. Other early doctors

were Jas. K. Whiteman, 1891, and John T. Fleming. Doctors Wilcox from Sutton and Jenison from Clay Center became connected with Harvard practice, the latter still living here.

J. R. Sample was next and then G. B. Wolford in 1904. Dr. J. G. Pace registered about 1905, and H. H. Seely in 1900, and he remained long a fixture in Harvard. A. R. Weaver registered as an optometrist. Dr. F. E. Gorden came in 1908. Doctors Jenison, Howard and Butler were still practicing in Harvard in 1914. Dr. G. E. Ingram came in 1915.

#### FAIRFIELD

After A. B. Palmer, first physician, and Doctor Case, the notable figures of the early medical fraternity of Fairfield were G. M. Prentice, 1882; A. R. Ray, 1888; and J. E. Spatz, 1885. During the early '90s came James H. Conrad, 1891; Wm. A. Lusk, 1892; Henry A. Miner, 1894. Spatz & Miner were a firm in 1895. M. L. Jones registered in 1908 as an optometrist; C. L. Ayers registered about 1906. Dr. G. H. Bentz and A. E. Reeves were later practitioners at Fairfield.

#### EDGAR

Edgar's early physicians were Drs. T. E. and R. W. Casterline. O. B. Canfield came in 1891, and Dr. John F. Edgar had registered before then. R. W. E. Casterline registered in 1899. A. J. Chamberlain registered in 1902, and Messiah Mesropian in 1904; D. F. Anderson and J. W. Winston registered about 1910; A. W. Thomas about 1915. Doctors Thomas and Winston and Harbour, osteopath, have been the Edgar medical fraternity of recent years.

The doctors of Clay County for the past thirty years will be classified from this point on, according to the towns from which they practiced.

#### SUTTON

Dr. M. V. B. Clark was registered in 1881 and has been practicing at Sutton for almost half a century. Dr. M. W. Wilcox, deceased, was the member from Clay County in the 1875 constitutional convention. Dr. J. M. Birkner, since famed in military National Guard activities of this state and in recent years a leading physician of Lincoln, came to Sutton in 1886; Dr. H. E. Vradenberg registered in 1886. Up until 1897 these constituted the medical fraternity at Sutton. In 1897 Dr. Herman Bening came to Sutton, and in September, 1898, Dr. H. H. Shultz. Doctor Shultz has since then been a fixture with Sutton people. R. A. Blackburn was here but a short time. Doctor Bening succeeded Doctor Birkner when the latter left Sutton. Dr. A. J. Kaufman came and stayed but a short time. Dr. J. W. Thompson stayed about a decade and moved to Lincoln in 1920. V. A. Lanpher was here a while, went into service and upon return located in Omaha. Dr. R. O. Griess, in 1920, took over the Birkner-Bening-Thompson succession of practices. James G. Stone came in 1917. L. K. Strate was registered in 1915; Dr. W. J. Germar, chiropractic, and H. W. Kellogg, also chiropractic, registered in 1915 and 1916 respectively; and Dr. Jesse Hull, osteopath, in 1920.

## CLAY CENTER

Dr. O. P. Shoemaker for many years was the familiar figure in Clay Center's medical circles. Dr. A. J. Jenison registered in 1895, but went to Harvard in a few years. Dr. J. A. Philipsen registered in 1894; Dr. S. Scruggs in 1901. Dr. O. P. Latta and J. O. Latta became familiar figures in Clay Center's medical practice almost two decades ago. F. E. Stoakes of Hampton and Elizabeth Wood registered in 1904, and W. J. Black in 1905, and A. H. Lewis in 1908. In 1910 C. H. Atwood and J. W. Archerd registered and with Doctor Latta formed the Clay Center medical fraternity for some years.

## OTHER TOWNS

Not all of the doctors of Clay County have practiced out of the five principal towns, but at all times have some been stationed at the other towns in the county. Notably illustrative in part at least are the following: 1891, Dr. Hugh A. Baker registered at Glenville, and M. A. Perkins at Trumbull. Victor Anderson was at Dewese in 1894, and John S. Winston, then at Ong, long before his removal to Edgar. In 1897 John R. Temple registered at Trumbull. F. L. Beck located at Ong in 1903. C. L. Egbert went to Glenville in 1903 and Roy D. Martin a few years later. J. G. Stone first located at Trumbull, C. J. Burne at Ong, and A. J. Chamberlain at Dewese. J. L. Storkman also located at Dewese. In 1920 L. F. Egan at Glenville and also T. N. Cannon.

## DENTISTS

The dentists of Clay County have not been so numerous, though in the past two years dentistry has made wonderful strides in its efficiency and importance. Those listed here are given, where possible, with the year of registration in Clay County.

SUTTON. J. H. Johnson was Sutton's dentist in 1895. M. P. Yocum came in 1899, E. E. Hobbs in 1901, A. P. Taylor in 1902, C. E. Fellman in 1910, all having moved away; Dwight W. Dulaigh in 1914, Ferd. and Gust M. Griess in 1915 are still here; D. J. Pope in 1917. Ferd. and Gust Griess, Dwight Dulaigh in 1921 are those practicing in Sutton.

HARVARD. Harvard's dentists were as follows: C. Leroy Sample, 1903; Chas. J. Ellen, 1914; Carl E. Fellman, 1915; A. W. Luff, 1916; C. J. Eller and Chas. E. Fellman, 1921, still practicing here.

CLAY CENTER. Clay Center's dentists were: J. T. Fleming as early as 1895 and E. E. Wilber, 1897. John A. Stewart came in 1901 and E. E. Yocum in 1903; John H. Borland and C. D. Palmer, 1915, and D. A. Deines, 1916.

FAIRFIELD. Fairfield's dentists were: H. A. Roberts, 1898; G. W. E. Dodge, 1900; A. B. Hopper, 1904; and more recently its present practitioners, Jas. R. Bell, 1914, and S. C. Atkins, 1915.

EDGAR. Edgar's dentists have been: M. L. Ong, 1900; G. R. Woods, 1901; Jas. R. Shively, 1915; F. D. Voigt, 1916; and W. L. Hull, 1920.

Special tributes to two members of the Clay County medical fraternity have been secured from notices published at the time of their demise.

Thomas E. Casterline was born in Ithaca, New York, November 6, 1833. He

received his early education in the common schools of New York and began teaching in 1852 when he was nineteen years old. He also took up the study of medicine, devoting what time he could to it. He continued teaching until he enlisted in the service, joining the One Hundred and Forty-third Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the army until the war closed in 1865.

He was married to Martha J. Miller October 29, 1857. To this union two children were born, Floyd W. and Frank J., both now living in Tipton, Iowa. His second marriage, to Rachel M. Huff, occurred January 3, 1870, and to this union two children were born, Mellie F. and Ralph W. E., both now living in Edgar.

After the war he finished fitting himself for the practice of medicine and located in Carroll County, Illinois, in 1867, but soon removed to Marshall County, where he practiced until 1877, when he moved with his family to Edgar, where he resided until his death. While living in Marshall County, Illinois, he traveled through Illinois and Iowa lecturing on psychology and phrenology during the winter season.

In the fall of 1881 he, in partnership with James Roberts, purchased a store and put in a full line of drugs and notions, but sold out the following year to Whittlesey & Wright. His first experience in the newspaper business was in 1884 when he purchased the Clay County Call, which he changed to The Edgar Post and which he sold to James McNally in 1892. January 1, 1907, he and his son, Ralph, purchased The Edgar Sun of Harvey Rousey. In July, 1910, he was taken quite sick and at that time sold his interest in the Sun to his son, severing all connection with the paper but continued writing whenever he was able to do so. He suffered almost constantly from this time on, but would not give up his work, writing for the Sun and other papers and caring for his home and loved ones.

Death came to claim him after a month of intense longing to go to his summer home at 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, October 21, 1913. He has left to mourn the loss of a loving, devoted husband and father his wife, three sons and one daughter, F. W. Casterline and F. J. Casterline of Tipton, Iowa; R. W. E. Casterline and Mrs. C. G. Cottle of Edgar; three grandchildren and other relatives besides his friends.

#### DR. ADAM R. RAY

Adam R. Ray, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ray, was born at Frankvill, Winneshiok County, Iowa, July 11, 1860. In the '70s he went to Decorah, twelve miles from his home, where he attended Breckenridge's Norman School, taking a teacher's course. He then went to Crystal Lake, Minnesota in 1877, and taught school. Returning to Decorah he entered Slack's Business College, graduating from same in 1879. He then went to Sanborn, Iowa, where he worked in a store for a year; thence to Pukwana, South Dakota, where he took up a claim and taught school. Selling his claim he went to Keokuk, Iowa, and entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating from the same.

In 1888 he came to Fairfield, establishing himself as a physician and surgeon and shortly after entered into partnership with Doctor Prentice in the drug business which continued for a number of years.

On October 1, 1890, he was united in marriage with Miss Frances Gillette. To this union was born one daughter, Mina.

Owing to ill health he was compelled to give up his practice, in a way, and

about two years ago moved to a ranch at Brownlee, Nebraska, thinking that perhaps he might regain his health. But such was not to be. He continued to fail and was taken to the Everett hospital at Lincoln, where he passed away on Tuesday, April 3, 1917. The body was brought to Fairfield and the funeral under the direction of the Knights of Pythias, of which he was an honored member, was held from the Congregational church, Reverends Alcorn and Hobson officiating, Thursday afternoon, the remains being laid to rest in Fairfield cemetery, mourned by the entire community.

Doctor Ray was an active participant in the social affairs of the community.

## CHAPTER XIII

### CLAY COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

WORLD WAR—THE JUNE 5TH REGISTRATION—COUNCIL OF DEFENSE—RED CROSS CAMPAIGN—HOME PATRIOTS DOING BIT—FOUR MINUTE MEN—RED CROSS RE-ORGANIZED—EDGAR'S ROLL OF HONOR—CLAY COUNTY'S FIRST WAR LOSS—HARVARD HOME GUARDS—COUNTY Y. M. C. A.—FIFTEEN MEN LEAVE, APRIL 29—THE HARVARD QUILT—RED CROSS SALE AT TRUMBULL—INLAND QUILT—MAY DETACHMENT LEAVES—HARVEST HANDS AVAILABLE—JUNE DETACHMENT LEAVES—TO TRAINING SCHOOLS—NURSES—SEPTEMBER DEPARTURES—BREHM LETTER—ARMISTICE—COLONEL PAUL ON FIFTH REGIMENT—HISTORY OF COMPANY G.

#### THE WORLD WAR

Clay County, like every other Nebraska County played its proportionate part in making the wonderful record for responses that glorified Nebraska during the terrible days of 1917 and 1918. It is rather more difficult than with most counties to formulate a connected record or narrative of the work "Back Here" at home, during those days. The five important towns of Clay County each rather maintained independent agencies for war work in about every line. No singly compiled list of those who went into service has been found, so it has been necessary to resort to detached incidents as recorded, and many men who served from Clay County will therefore be missed in this record.

Fairfield's record has already been incorporated in the story of that town, with its list of almost sixty men in service.

Recourse has been had to the columns of the press for compiling the daily and weekly record of war work, which will be of inestimable value in the future, and more freely to the columns and pen of the Clay County Sun than any other paper.

A most notable thing in Clay County has been the erection in at least three Clay County towns of "boards," very handsomely and artistically erected and decorated, commemorating the roster of those from the respective communities who served in the war. An illustration of the Harvard Board will describe this idea better than words can do.

The registrars who served on the June 5, 1917, registration were:

School Creek Township:	Lynn Township:	Lone Tree Township:
William Roberts	J. E. Ray	J. H. Eller
William Weston	E. J. Dickson	O. McKelvie
Eldorado Township:	Sutton Township:	Springranch Township:
George England	H. C. Palmer	A. A. Canfield
Arthur Belding	Frank Lang	John Myler
Harvard Township:	Sheridan Township:	Fairfield City:
Harry Thomas	Willis Hall	E. H. Burnham
Lynan Aker	Will McLaughlin	F. Anawalt

Edgar City:	Lewis Township:	Fairfield Township:
William Breckenridge	Frank Larkin	C. L. Lewis
Doctor Woods	John A. Falk	John Palmer
Harvard City:	Sutton City:	Edgar Township:
William Ayton	Art Burlingame	H. A. Caldwell
L. A. Higgins	A. H. Lewis	E. S. Bottom
Leicester Township:	Marshall Township:	Logan Township:
A. H. Rich	F. T. Swanson	Rev. C. H. Humphrey
William Samuelson	Phil Schwab	Nels Edberg
Inland Township:	Glenvil Township:	
John J. Donahue	Martin A. Jennings	
S. W. Stephenson	Walter A. Leners	

The permanent officers of Clay County's Council of Defense were: President, H. H. Johnson; vice president, Judge A. C. Epperson; secretary, Mr. O. McKelvie and treasurer, Mr. John Peshek.

#### QUIET REGISTRATION

Fear-mad folks who had been predicting for weeks that this country would be the scene of riots on Registration day could soon set their worry machine to work on some other absurdity. In this county there was near a riot—to see who could get to the registration booths first. Boys came proudly from the registrars wearing the little tricolor that indicated they had signified their willingness to serve their country, and aside from some slight hesitation on some of the questions, caused by a desire to answer them just as the government directed, the registration moved rapidly and by 6 o'clock was nearly completed. The following list shows how many registered in the different registration precincts in this county and at a later date we will publish the list of names in full:

Logan, 66; Inland, 67; Spring Ranch, 48; Sheridan, 53; Edgar (1st), 75; Edgar (2d), 30; School Creek, 58; Harvard (1st), 52; Harvard (2d), 61; Eldorado, 59; Leicester, 56; Fairfield (2d), 57; Fairfield (1st), 58; Lewis, 60; Sutton (1st), 92; Sutton (2d), 54; Marshall, 35; Lynn, 58; Glenvil, 83. Total, 1,127.

#### FINE RED CROSS CAMPAIGN

With the ringing of the church bells and the sounding of all the factory whistles in town, a company of young women in regulation Red Cross soliciting uniforms started last Tuesday morning, June 5th, at 10 o'clock, to canvass this town for contributions to the Red Cross work. The work here was under the supervision of the local Red Cross auxiliary and it is to the eternal credit of the town that at the end of the canvass there was turned into the fund \$218 contributions. The young ladies who made the canvass are as follows:

Olive Hanson, Lita Crawford, Mabel Fairley, Grace Hanson, Florence Eller, Edith McDonald, Anna Fry, Mildred Epperson, Florence Schwab, Ruth Siefken, Ruby Richert, and Bertha Burlingame.

When one considers this handsome bunch of solicitors he ceases to wonder at their success, but will never cease marveling over the stupidity of a bunch of young



men in this city who had not wit enough to be seized with some kind of illness, while this bevy of girls were in uniform committing them to service as nurses.

#### HOME PATRIOTS DOING BIT

One of the most enthusiastic and successful of the Red Cross meetings that have been held in the county since Red Cross activities began was the meeting at Spring Ranch Saturday night, June 30th.

In preparation for the meeting, the ladies of the community decorated the hall in an attractive manner with flags and a large Red Cross banner.

Mr. D. C. Hinds, Sr., presided over the meetings. C. L. Stewart told in an interesting address the history of the Red Cross and what it has done and is planning to do. The ladies' quartette, consisting of Mrs. C. L. Stewart, the Misses Bertha Jessup, Bertha Burlingame and Kathryn Epperson, sang several selections, which were well received. Miss Mabel Kirk explained the plan of organization of the Red Cross, the classes of membership and the various lines of work. Practically every one present expressed their desire to become members and a branch was organized with F. Valentine, chairman; Guy Orendorff, vice chairman; Mrs. E. E. Fritch, secretary, and Mrs. Kemp, treasurer.

Hon. Charles H. Epperson, of Fairfield, spoke briefly for the county and when we tell you that we have never heard him to better advantage you will know that his talk, though brief, was full of stirring, loyal sentiment. The main address of the day was assigned to Rev. A. A. Randall of Hebron, and he measured up to the occasion full and satisfactorily. Mr. Randall is no stranger in this city, but on no former visit has he attained to anything approaching the eloquence that was his on this day and, in truth, never before had he such incentive. There before him were a host of young men just going forth on an enterprise from which some might never return. A bunch of brave lads going out to give battle that an ideal might be perpetuated. The association was inspiring and Mr. Randall used it to the fullest. This address was followed by a short talk from Father Dunphy and this master of delightful English lived up to his reputation as being one of our most forceful and eloquent speakers.

#### THE MILITARY DRILL

Following the program of music and oratory Company G of Hastings, under Captain Hanlon, occupied the center of the race course in a military drill that brought forth round after round of applause. The boys, one hundred and fifty strong, made a handsome sight in their new outfits and their manly conduct both on and off the field won for them a mighty warm spot in the heart of every one of the four thousand people who witnessed their evolutions.

#### SUPPER IS SERVED

At the close of the drill the company was marched from the field to the "mess hall" and again told to "line up" and "fill up." The command was obeyed with alacrity and the generous people of the community will be pleased to know that, even after the vigorous assault of some six hundred hungry boys and men, there remained enough food to have fed a good many more.

## FOUR MINUTERS AT WORK

The first quota of Epperson's "four minute men" were on the job in October, as follows:

At the Methodist Church Reverend West made a rousing plea for everyone to do their bit either in money, arms or work.

At the Congregational Church Representative Swanson exceeded the time limit a trifle but made an effective plea for the going deep into the purse of every loyal citizen who for any reason was deprived of the privilege of aiding in the time of our country's peril in any other manner, and at the Christian Church Mr. Epperson dropped a few bombs that should stir lethargic blood into patriotic activity. If you are patriotic, Buy a Bond; If you have the money, Buy a Bond, and if you haven't the money, borrow it and Buy a Bond.

## RED CROSS REORGANIZED

The meeting of the Clay County Chapter of the Red Cross on Monday evening, October 22d, held in the City Council room, was called on advice of the National society in its endeavor to get all organizations reorganized in October so that the terms of office of all chapter officers shall commence in that month. This meeting was unusual in that an equal number of men and women were present, the ladies busily engaged with their knitting while they entered heartily into the business of the evening.

Judge Logan made a four-minute talk on Liberty Bonds. The chairman of the supplies committee, Mrs. J. H. Nieman, made her report. She says that yarn has been given out for twenty complete outfits, consisting of sweaters, mufflers, socks, and wristlets, and the ladies of town and country are rushing the work to have them ready to ship the first of November. The membership committee chairman, Eva Ferree, reported two hundred sixty-five members at this date, and plans for membership campaign will be announced later. Probably the most important work of the evening was the election of officers, as follows:

County chairman, H. C. Palmer; vice chairman, Rev. Victor West; secretary, Mabel E. Kirk; treasurer, Thos. A. Siefken; members of the executive committee, Rev. H. E. Tweedy and C. L. Rippeteau.

The chairman of the supplies and membership committees were reappointed for the coming year. The executive committee appointed Reverend Tweedy and C. L. Rippeteau as delegates to the state convention to be held in Omaha next week.

## HOME GUARD ORGANIZED

The meeting for the organization of The Home Guards was held as advertised in the opera house last Wednesday night. There was a good representation of Edgar citizens out and would have been more but for a little misunderstanding. Captain West, pastor of the Methodist Church at Clay Center and Captain of the Clay County Home Guards. The constitution as herewith printed was adopted. The officers elected were: Captain, C. P. Avery; first lieutenant, J. C. Walley; second lieutenant, Clair Voorhees. About forty signed the membership roll. Meetings for drill will be held on Tuesday nights of each week.

Those who have signed the Muster Roll by January 19, 1918:

C. P. Avery	Herman H. Ruhge	C. A. Voorhees
C. H. Hayes	Warren E. Robinson	W. M. Thomas
W. J. Breckenridge	A. O. Mead	A. L. Johnston
J. W. Richison	George Clack	Howard Cottle
Earl Rickel	V. C. Wright	Cecil Jackson
Fred Proudly	I. P. Sconce	Roland Prickett
F. M. Thompson	C. E. Vanstrom	Will Brookley
L. M. Cassell	J. C. Christie	Earl Hart
H. L. Young	N. E. Jacobs	Paul Mitchel
Frank Lake	G. H. Portwood	F. O. Specht
Raymond Allee	Harland Portwood	A. L. Snyder
Lee Hayes	W. J. Boomer	C. C. Cartney
Cecil Graul	Roy Shipley	A. D. Scott
C. R. Pearson	W. L. Hochritner	Claire Voorhees
Lee Hill	C. A. Storrs	Fred Voorhees
Dr. F. M. Trobaugh	Ed Clack	J. G. Walley
Fred King	C. C. Stout	

## EDGAR

The Edgar papers in January, 1918, published the following names as Edgar's roll of honor up to that time:

Wade Babers	Elmer Ahlstrom	Elmer Perkins
Harry Stayner	Clarence Cooper	Sgt. W. C. Humphrey
Byron Vaughan	Charles H. Merrill	L. W. Graham
Percy C. Armstrong	Merritt Schlutzer	W. M. Kenley
John Anderson	Roy R. Gilpin	A. B. DeVore
James Nesbitt	William G. Taylor	Charles Hart
Lieut. R. T. Jones	W. H. Brookley	Guy Mapes
Phillip Stoldorf	Harry Anderton	Harry Wager
James C. Frantz	Lieut. L. E. Cottle	Harry Slatt
Bruce W. Merrill	Elmer Jayne	W. O. Turner
Adolph Recht	Percy Gunn	Grover Carson
Ernest C. Erickson	Paul Hattan	Roy G. Sconce
Ralph J. White	Keith Graul	Wright W. Sconce
Leonard Hughes	Lieut. Joseph L. McMin-	Harry Wheelan
James Cassell	imey	Frank Specht
Capt. J. A. Jim	Mellville G. Sien	Billie Trobaugh
R. H. McKee	Ivan Paddock	Herman Lehms
William Perkins	Orval Paddock	George Caldwell
Jess E. Humphrey	H. B. Moheng	Bert Lyons
Earl V. Bray	Paul R. Moheng	Blaine Victor
Roy Divan	Floyd V. Fletcher	Frank Gutzmer
Henry Smith	Leonard Johnson	Howard Boden
R. A. VanBuren	F. O. Byor	Clay Mitchell
William Ellis	Lloyd Leo Goden	Walter Hull

## CLAY COUNTY'S FIRST WAR LOSS

Mr. Clarence Cooper, aged about twenty-eight, son of Mr. Oscar Cooper and wife, old-time citizens of this county, living just east of Edgar, is the first Clay County boy to give up his life in the service of his country in its present troubles.

Clarence was born and raised in this county and at the time of his death was with our troops at Camp Cody. He was taken with pneumonia some days ago and his condition became so serious that last Thursday his father started for the camp to visit him. Before reaching Kansas City he received word that the lad had answered the last call and that the remains would be shipped home. The grief-stricken father accompanied the body home from Kansas City, arriving in Edgar Wednesday morning of this week. We go to press too early to be able to give the funeral arrangements. This death marks our county's first sacrifice of life to the war god and the sympathy of hundreds of homes that may be bowed under the same weight of grief at any time, will go out to our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper.

## HOME GUARD ORGANIZED

In February, 1918, the organization of the Harvard Home Guards was perfected.

Nels Tortenson was elected captain, Parker Aker, first lieutenant, and J. A. Dixon, second lieutenant. Charles Wing was elected president of the business organization and Albert Person secretary.

Following is a list of members who had then joined:

A. W. Person	Julius E. Person	Robert Ayton
H. B. Golding	Nels A. Tortensen	Carrol V. Tucker
Ira E. Carney	W. L. Gaddis	C. J. Eller
D. W. Stone	A. J. Jenison	E. T. Jeffries
C. W. Wycoff	Paul Alberding	B. F. Eller
A. E. Barthelman	Ralph A. Gray	J. E. Ingram
O. O. Buck	C. H. Worley	Charles S. Fisher
Edw. J. Weimer	J. A. Dixon	A. W. Kunselman
Fred E. Turner	R. S. Rosenbaum	J. H. Webster
L. A. Robertson	George W. Miller	G. C. Schwenk
W. G. Schwenk	L. A. Higgins	Edward Fagler
Curtis Pierce	T. E. Turner	George E. Marsh
E. M. Harrison, Jr.	C. R. Traut	Mark Hartley
D. V. Curry	L. S. Yost	S. S. Harrington
Hervey McCoy	C. H. Wing	D. R. Salisbury
Leroy Carriker	George Schaff	J. F. Carper
J. H. Galloway	Ernest Allbee	R. DeGroat
Raus M. Hanson	John Gerlach	H. R. Tillotson
L. F. Hunt	A. Z. Megrue	F. M. Armstrong
W. E. Stiles	G. A. Megrue	Ed. Hamburger
Bert Gregg	H. G. Thomas	Bert Hosier
H. V. Brenneman	H. A. Erickson	Archie Wing
E. A. Rosenbaum	E. M. Erickson	A. B. Patterson
E. R. Scott	Everett R. Johnson	S. K. Stinger

George E. Hutton	C. D. Yost	Bert Mihm
J. H. Allbee	H. L. Keasling	Mose Farmer
F. C. Hoffman	W. H. Bates	William Wendt
S. R. Sherwin	L. L. Stone	John Hamburger
C. Sjostedt	B. L. Kaufman	George Hamburger
F. P. Franke	F. G. Erickson	A. F. Carriker
W. J. Turner	W. N. Nelson <sup>b</sup>	E. W. Benson
C. A. McPeak	A. P. Erickson	J. O. Carper
H. L. Higgins	A. W. Jacobs	C. H. Yost
H. G. Wellensiek	H. H. Seely	R. E. Davison
L. S. Averill	T. G. Farrow	W. J. Yost
H. A. Mickel	Herman Krug	E. C. Rynerson
C. L. Hohnstein	Peter Yost	R. A. Mizner
Harold Hartley	J. E. Sherer	P. W. Aker
Hugh Turner	Roy Hiatt	J. E. Kunselman
Levi R. Yost	C. J. Hohnstein	C. J. Helzer
Jerome Canfield	George Lorgren	Frank Sutton
C. F. Hardy	J. R. Dunleavy	Leo C. Frank
M. E. Turner	A. C. Hoffman	H. S. Kunselman
P. G. Held	George Hohnstein	H. H. Yost
E. W. Carriker	Charles Campbell	Sam Deines
Fred Tickler	Daniel Shafer	H. A. Tickler
P. H. Hein	John Glantz	V. J. Dieringer
H. A. Siekman	P. J. Hennessey	Otto Hoffman
William Jaeger	Albert Hiatt	R. E. Brown
H. F. Skinner	F. A. Wendt	William Rurup
W. H. Farrar	Tom Dieringer	Henry Siekman
H. Wendt	J. A. Stett	H. L. Hohnbaum
P. D. Yost	Mose Hartley	Raymond Pauley
Julius Rothert	Charlie Turner	H. Hohnstein
D. H. Schultz	Fred G. Yost	Howard Smith
George Koehler	F. G. Keasling	P. Rosenbaum
R. J. Kreutz	D. A. Hiatt	F. F. Farmer
W. E. Canfield	J. A. E. Stedt	G. E. Stone
C. Golding	F. L. Bradner	Matt Leclleiter
O. F. Farrow	A. F. Ruebsamen	A. W. Kreutz
N. H. Pontious	Ralph Evans	V. E. Davis
S. R. Hunt	Reuben Lovgren	L. A. Megrue
Mike Glantz	Fay Farrar	W. W. Means
C. E. Hiff	William Sinner	George Brown
R. Hamburger	Herman Yost	R. W. Bayles
Alfred Nowka	W. T. Ayton	Stephen Waters
Willie Yost	O. G. Fuller	R. G. Gregg
L. A. Potts	E. H. Hamburger	Aug. Schultz
R. P. Yost	Wendell Johnson	George Fisher
Peter Green	John H. Pauley	T. E. Turner
H. Kitzinger	C. A. Hamburger	J. P. McKenzie
C. H. Golding	Conrad Kregger	H. L. Hite

R. A. Silvester	Orrin Hosier	Jesse Yost
George B. Krug	Rich Volkman	L. T. Laudenschlager
F. W. Schuppan, Jr.	J. A. Hamburger	C. J. Warner
R. J. Wilson	G. J. Thomas	C. S. Davis
E. F. Adkins	I. D. Howard	L. G. Kempster
Frank Jacobs	H. W. Hands	J. S. Whisenand
John Schmer	L. H. Kaufman	Andrew L. Jensen
R. G. Phillips	W. P. Lurk	George A. Koenig
Charles L. Hess	W. C. Miller	H. R. North
H. W. Kellogg	L. J. Hohnstein	William Spencer
C. E. Smith	E. H. Koehler	A. D. Briggs
John A. Ling	William Koenig, Jr.	G. A. Herzog
M. W. Brarley	T. L. Wilson	J. H. Schmer
S. H. Richardson	Lawrence Kempster	E. Golding
E. A. Grisinger	E. A. Keller	Rhiney Engelhardt
Merle Fisher	C. A. Pembroke	
A. W. Hill	Lyman Aker	

## COUNTY Y. M. C. A. ORGANIZED

The Y. M. C. A. meetings held throughout the county in March, 1918, were very successful. Services were held on Sunday in practically every community in the county, with a number of prominent speakers participating.

The organizing supper at Clay Center on Monday evening, March 4th was attended by 125 men from five towns. On account of the roads not all the towns were represented. The meeting was an enthusiastic one and it was voted unanimously that Clay County proceed with the organization of the County Y. M. C. A., and a county committee was elected to have the work in charge. The financial canvass is being made this week to raise a two-year budget with which to carry on the work.

The following men were elected on the county committee:

N. G. Bender, Sutton	A. L. Johnson, Edgar
M. Figi, Sutton	H. C. Portwood, Edgar
R. A. Bauder, Eldorado	E. H. Lewis, Fairfield
A. L. Lamp, Inland	T. P. Shiveley, Fairfield
J. J. Kohler, Deweese	Ira Fishback, Harvard
J. S. Logan, Clay Center	Carl H. Worley, Harvard
Loy J. Gilkeson, Clay Center	Dr. R. D. Martin, Glenvil
O. McKelvie, Clay Center	

Representatives from other towns will be added later to the committee.

## FIFTEEN MORE YOUNG MEN ANSWER CALL TO THE GLORY BANNER

It may have been because of the going of two of Clay Center's most popular young men, Messrs. Stanley Fryar and Will Jones, or it might have been because of our people finding out daily that the war is our war, whatever the reason, it existed, for last Tuesday morning, April 29, more people gathered to bid our boys

who are going out to fight for right and decency a fond farewell than have assembled on any of the numerous like occasions before. The District court room was well filled when Judge A. C. Epperson, representing the community, rose to say the words of parting to the boys and by the time Rev. J. R. Rippeteau had finished his appeal to the Almighty for guidance and protection there was an overflow that extended down the stairs and into the lower hall of the county building. The occasion was an inspirational one and both Judge Epperson and Mr. Rippeteau rose splendidly to it. The talk of the Judge was declared by many to be the best thing heard in this city in the speechmaking line since the beginning of the war and through the prayers of Reverend Rippeteau there coursed such a vein of profound earnestness that one seemed almost to sense the nearness of the Great Protector. At the conclusion of the services, boutonnières were pinned on the boy's lapels and with L. F. Fryar carrying the colors, and his son, who was one of the lads in the call, marching at their head, the embryo soldiers started for the depot followed by a great concourse of citizens and the entire school population of the town. While waiting for the train a chorus of high schools gave several selections, the school yells were rehearsed and the boys took from the old town a sense of their worth that should remain a dear heritage to them for the balance of their lives. This shipment of men goes to Camp Funston, and in it were:

Stanley Fryar, Clay Center  
 Henry C. Trobough, Fairfield  
 Ray W. Killion, Ong  
 Thomas C. Hinricks, Inland  
 George W. Gowen, Montana  
 William B. Jones, Clay Center  
 Bert L. Widell, Sutton  
 George J. Rogge, Trumbull

Raymond Salmen, Sutton  
 Lynn P. Collins, Beattie, Kansas  
 Peter Miller, Harvard  
 Nick M. Griener, Panama, Iowa  
 Arthur D. Petrie, Fairfield  
 August Nelson, Sutton  
 Carl Pierson, Benson

May 3d ten more of our lads left for the training camp at Fort Logan, Colorado, to get in shape to take their places on the firing lines when called upon to do so and it is understood that another call is imminent. The boys called for Friday, May 3d, are as follows:

Albert Brunning, Harvard  
 James C. Brooks, Glenvil  
 Roy J. Landon, Hastings  
 George Rieth, Edgar  
 Henry J. Goldenstein, Glenvil

Olins Anthes, Lincoln  
 Lewis N. Davidson, Chicago  
 Henry Deines, Harvard  
 Ernest A. Anderson, Saronville  
 Edward E. Brooking, Glenvil

#### THE HARVARD QUILT

One of the truly remarkable pieces of war work, not only of Clay County but of the State of Nebraska, was the quilt made at Harvard. A committee, composed of Josie C. Bennett, Anna M. Ling and Mollie Johnson, planned the idea and solicited funds. Forty blocks were assigned and \$1,155 was realized from sale of space on the quilt and the quilt itself was never disposed of, being in 1921 in the possession of the Harvard Red Cross authorities. Drafting the quilt plans was in charge of Bird C. Howard. The material was donated by Red Cross members.

Nora Hjelm was chairman of the April 12, 1918, meeting at which the project was planned. Gertrude E. Tickler was chairman of the November 19, 1919, meeting when the report was made. Two hundred and seventy spaces were finally planned on each side, twenty-five blocks were taken up by the big cross. The gross receipts were \$1,655.75 from the venture. Verna C. Herzog did the coloring of the large planning quilt. Each worker kept a record and positions on border blocks were assigned according to number of blocks each disposed of. Those were secured in the following order: Josie C. Bennett; Ona Perry, Francis Warner, Laverna Perry, Emma Herzog, Mollie Johnson, Loretta Jeffery, Grace Hennessey, Kate Hunter, Ella Higgins, Perlle Turner, Carrie Turner, Eva Turner, Ethel Wing, Mayme Ayton, Laura Pembroke, Jennie Stiles, Luna Hunter, Mary A. Kilgore, Helma Benson and Nellie Plant. The soliciting committee were Maude Tillotson, Nettie Smith, Gertie Tiekler, Florence Nisely, Maude Schwenk, Louise Rosenbaum, Lillie M. Beach, Blanche Bardley, Ruth Aken, Nora Hjelm, and Lorreta Jeffery. Those who participated and won place on quilting done were Grace Nisely, Orall Bates, Lydia Jeffries, Mary Elving, Eva M. Turner, Sophronia Colvar, Flora Nisely, Carrie A. Turner, Alta Nisely, Mayme R. Ayton, Lena Smith, Laverna Perry, Stella A. Hart, Bertha Wetherald, Barbara Iliff, Jane Hunter, Luna Hunter, Emma Herzog, Josie C. Bennett, Louise Rosenbaum, Anna M. Ling, Hilda Eller, and America E. Fisher.

#### RED CROSS SALE AT TRUMBULL

In spite of the bad weather the Red Cross auction sale at Trumbull in May was well attended and the affair was very successful. People were most generous in their donations and articles of all kinds, useful and ornamental, besides much live stock, found its way to the sale. Being a patriotic affair, the sale opened with the singing of "America," and a stirring speech by auctioneer, S. Munn. Bidding was lively, prices were good and much enthusiasm prevailed. At intervals the Trumbull band under the leadership of Bert Talbert gave selections. The boy scouts in their military uniforms made themselves very useful. The Red Cross ladies served lunch from noon until 5 o'clock, and the Junior Red Cross sold tags. As a result of all these efforts nearly \$1,100 was realized. Trumbull has a right to be proud of this achievement.

#### INLAND QUILT BRINGS \$365

The largest, most patriotic and most enthusiastic crowd that ever gathered in the little village of Inland met there last Wednesday afternoon, May 8, when a Red Cross auction was held in the vacant implement shop of John J. Donahue. All morning farmers and merchants kept coming with three hundred pound hogs, pigs, calves, sheep, chickens, eggs, butter, harness, merchandise of all kinds, family dogs, sacks of wheat, oats, barley, corn, potatoes and seed corn; the ladies bringing all kinds of fancy work, fancy quilts, pies, cakes, canned fruit, goslings, little chickens, and even canary birds. The merchants of Inland besides making their donations, furnished the pop, buns, meat, etc., which was served by the members of the Girls Club of Inland.

The sale began at 2 o'clock, Colonel Doty of Hastings and Colonel Munn of



Trumbull taking turns in crying it. The bidding was lively and spirited: many items of ten, fifteen and even twenty dollars being promptly donated back by the buyer to be sold again for the benefit of the Red Cross. Donations of personal checks were put up and sold, checks of two dollars bringing three or four dollars when auctioned off. One man, who that afternoon received a check for five dollars which had been due him, made a gift of it to the Red Cross. This was promptly sold for seven dollars and a half. Five and ten dollar bills were put up and brought from two to three dollars more than face value. A ten dollar gold piece was sold for twenty-one dollars.

The sale was interspersed by stirring patriotic speeches by both auctioneers, who not only gave their services for the day, but also contributed freely.

Among the items sold were a pair of week old goslings which brought \$6.50; a hen and ten chicks brought \$25; a can of fruit, \$10; two pounds of butter, \$11; and a Red Cross quilt, donated by St. Cecelia's Sewing Circle, brought \$86. The sale was topped by the remarkable price of \$365 for a quilt donated by Mrs. G. W. Ablott.

The sale was not completed by 6 o'clock so a recess was taken, the people hurrying home to milk, feed chickens, etc., and then rushed back in greater numbers to again vie pleasantly in outbidding each other.

One of the laughter arousing events of the evening was the sale of an egg for a dollar, after which the auctioneer offered \$2 to the Red Cross fund, for any one who would suck the egg. The offer was immediately taken by Mr. Gallaher, one of the bearded patriarchs of the township, who sweeping his long moustache out of the way, easily slipped the egg out of sight.

The results of the sale were \$2,404 while the Girls Club made \$172 on the refreshments, making a total of \$2,576. In totaling up individual accounts, it was found that several had spent close to \$150 each on the sale.

This total, which breaks the record in this community for Red Cross sales, is a strong evidence of the fervent generosity of the Inland people. It shows that these good people are in heart, mind and purse, back of the brave boys who have gone to do their fighting for them.

#### OFF FOR TRAINING CAMP

The largest crowd that has been in this town for some time came in on the occasion of the entraining of a bunch of lads for the training camp last Tuesday morning, May 28, and sent the boys away with cheers and good wishes. This is the first lot to go to Camp Dodge from this county and the boys will soon begin to write back their impressions of the Iowa cantonment. Among the lads who went is one who will have two brothers fighting on the other side from him, but he knows that they are forced to, and he goes gladly to help strike from them the yoke of autocracy. The following boys made up the party:

Adelbert I. Davison, Harvard  
Ralph Corey, Sutton  
Peter O. Taylor, Clay Center  
J. Arthur Boberg, Lincoln  
Charles Hamoresky, Brule  
Eddie Herzog, Trumbull  
Charles Herrick, Trumbull

Claude D. Spaulding, Trumbull  
Martin Dedrickson, Saronville  
Linn Poits, Harvard  
James A. Chance, Edgar  
Edwin T. Hoffman, Inland  
Rex Shubert, Fairfield  
Arthur C. Carey, Sutton

William G. Schmer, Harvard  
 Henry C. Hinricks, Inland  
 John L. Galloway, Omaha  
 Ralph J. Anderton, Fairfield  
 Olen B. Whitlock, Ong  
 Sidney L. Anthes, Clay Center  
 Ralph L. Collins, Minden  
 Earl L. Hanson, Trumbull  
 Curtis Pierce, Harvard

Henry C. Ronnefeldt, Hastings  
 Leslie A. Jones, Clay Center  
 Clyde B. Wilson, Fairfield  
 Alfred C. Schwarz, Sutton  
 Peter Christensen, Edgar  
 Clyde Casterline, Lincoln  
 John H. Cobal, Spring Ranch  
 William G. Schmer, Harvard

#### HARVEST HANDS AVAILABLE

The Sun remarked on June 20, 1918:

We have been made the subject of considerable good-natured joshing by a number of our farmer friends for the past three weeks because of our activity in promoting the movement of town help for harvest needs. In view of this we take a good deal of pleasure in being able this week to put the proposition up to our farmers in a manner that must prove to them conclusively that they are going to be able to take care of their 1918 harvest and that the reason they are going to be able to take care of it easily and well is because their brethren of the town jumped into the breach and saved the day.

We do not take the credit for having accomplished this result nor do we wish it, for we are well pleased that the thing has been accomplished; however, it is meet that proper credit should be given, and so we say to you that the parties who have completed the details of this matter are the Clay County Council of Defense, assisted by County Agent Claybaugh. Chairman H. H. Johnson suggests that the clubs that are being organized in every town in the county be called "The Business Men's Harvest Help Clubs." Chairman Johnson has the matter sized up in this way: "Very few of our business men could stand a day in the field, but there are none of them but what could and would be glad to put in three or four hours in the late afternoon and evening.

Ordinarily a farmer with one seven or eight foot binder will cut from twelve to fifteen acres of grain per day. One man should be able to shock an acre an hour, so that one crew of five men should be able to go into a field at 6 o'clock and have the day's cutting shocked by 9 o'clock.

Taking these figures as a base, the gentlemen in charge of this branch of our war work have organized here in Clay Center fourteen Harvest Help Clubs, each consisting of four men and a captain. These clubs are available for work at any time and to get one or more of them it is only necessary for you to telephone the manager of the Clay Center Labor Bureau Co., Agent Claybaugh. In other parts of the county the same kind of clubs are being organized and you will be asked to confer with the clubs in your territory when seeking harvest help. These clubs are already organized at Ong, Fairfield, Edgar, and Clay Center as this is written (Wednesday) and today Mr. Claybaugh is in the north portion of the county completing the work. Here are the local clubs:

SQUAD No. 1—L. A. Brown, captain; F. A. Taylor, R. B. Tompkins, George Brewer, E. J. Dickson.

SQUAD No. 2.—N. W. Buchtel, captain; L. J. Gilkeson, Frank Hager, W. Rippeau, George F. Meyer.

SQUAD No. 3.—O. M. Campbell, captain; Charles Whitlam, John Rutledge, Cal. Rollins, Earl Fryar.

SQUAD No. 4.—H. B. Campbell, captain; R. A. Byrkit, W. A. Burt, William Kath, Ami Foster.

SQUAD No. 5.—Irwin Crawford, captain; W. L. Boldensten, Reverend Bowers, N. O. Deines, J. E. Ray.

SQUAD No. 6.—H. H. Harvey, captain; A. S. Kyne, James L. Campbell, Ernest King, Clem Ellis.

SQUAD No. 7.—William Hanseu, captain; Bert Searles, Reverend Tweedy; G. L. Boonstraw, A. W. Johnson.

SQUAD No. 8.—F. M. Larkin, captain; Frank Miller, K. D. Wary, C. L. Rippeau, Fred Turner.

SQUAD No. 9.—O. McKelvie, captain; P. Adams, E. Kirkhaffer, W. C. Jessup, Charles Hazelton.

SQUAD No. 10.—J. L. Moomaw, captain; J. H. Nieman, James Harvisou, Dan Deines, J. L. Hurt.

SQUAD No. 11.—Charles Nagel, captain; George R. Riley; R. Mooloneaux, Ray Fairley, Ernest Frisch.

SQUAD No. 12.—H. C. Palmer, captain; C. L. Stewart, C. W. Lewien, Vernon Larkin, C. J. Swanson.

SQUAD No. 13.—J. H. Perrigrine, captain; John Balusek, John Schmitz, John Neuman, Frank Snoddy.

SQUAD No. 14.—Earl Randall, captain; Reverend West, Vern Chandler, C. E. Voris, John Stiles.

UNASSIGNED RESERVE SUBJECT TO CALL—Milo Crawford, Henry Fuhrken, H. Falkenburg, R. H. Moore, V. F. Chipman, Fred Howard, John Nagel, D. H. Hanson, R. E. Ferris, Doctor Gartell, J. H. Eller, J. L. Perry, L. B. Sluyter, A. M. Williams, William R. Fry, G. M. Bavinger, P. E. Felton, J. L. Wilson, Joseph Rice, S. V. Searles, Doctor Archard, Reverend Becker.

This work will be paid for at the going harvest rates. A fair adjustment will be reached between the farmers and the business men.

Friday, June 28th, is a date that will long be remembered in this county for at that time fifty-seven of our young men will go out to fight for the preservation of the rights of all men. Twenty-eight of these boys will go to Camp Funston for their initial training in the science of war and the balance will go to Fort Riley. Plans are now on foot to distinguish this event by having in this city on the morning of the 28th a patriotic concert by an all-county band, some good speaking and some other patriotic stunts to impress upon the boys that they take with them into their adventure the love and respect of all Clay County. Make your plans to be here on this occasion and come early enough to be a part of the entire program. You note that we say "be a part," and that is what is desired of you. These are our boys and this is our war and everyone present at this leavetaking will be a part of the spirit of the program just as truly as though they made a hip, hip, hurrah speech, a fervent prayer or tooted a horn. Come and help send these boys away with a smile. The ones to go will be selected from this list:

Name	Address	Name	Address
Arthur Hornbacher,	Sutton	Wesley O. Sandberg,	Ong
Rudolph Gemmar,	Ong	Jake Kissler,	Sutton
Albert Streever,	Edgar	Fred Engle,	Inland
Leslie Northrop,	Fulton	Floys S. Buechtel,	Clay Center
Carl S. Dedrickson,	Saronville	George Stengel,	Sutton
Charles E. Spencer,	Harvard	Percy V. Gay,	Fairfield
Andrew Axel Benson,	Saronville	Rent C. Hinrichs,	Glenville
Henry Pope,	Sutton	Orson G. Fuller,	Harvard
Perry Walter Sage,	Harvard	Clarence L. Kearney,	Glenville
Herman Krug,	Harvard	Arthur G. Gunther,	La Salle, Ill.
Henry A. Schemer,	Eldorado	Emmett Leroy Bush,	Bentley, Iowa
Lloyd Maxwell Cassel,	Edgar	Frank Ryan,	Sutton
Lee J. Behrends,	Trumbull	Clayton Henninger,	Glenville
Harold A. Stickell,	Ong	Walter E. Nelson,	Sutton
Herman A. Radtke,	Deweese	Edmund F. Ochsner,	Sutton
Leonard W. Mock,	Fairfield	Tom William Dieringer,	Harvard
Albert N. Skinner,	Aberdeen, S. D.	Joseph F. Cory,	Rock Springs, Iowa
George Ross,	Harvard	Ernest M. Erickson,	Harvard
Albert J. Dejung,	Glenville	Jacob Roemich,	Sutton
George Walthers,	Glenville	Walter O. Theesen,	Glenville
Jesse A. Peck,	Edgar	Tyndall F. Story,	Edgar
Bernard O. Valentine,	Rupert, Idaho	Robert Robinson,	Ong
Mervin Barackmann,	Valentine	Thornton Thornburg,	Edgar
John B. Peterson,	Sutton	Paul Taylor,	Edgar
Joseph Bayer,	Spring Ranch	Fred Heinz,	Sutton
Rewe Porter Mundorff,	Clay Center	Rudolph H. Eigneberg,	Glenville
Ernest Salmen,	Sutton	Fred H. Oker,	Glenville
Leo Patrick Hughes,	Sutton	William M. Byrkit,	Fairfield
Herbert A. Fitzke,	Fairfield	Phillip F. Urbauer,	Clay Center
Clarence Dahlgren,	Sutton	George E. Ioby,	Sutton
Eddie Alberts,	Glenville	William Fleming,	Sutton
Charles E. Read,	Inland	Carl A. Walton,	Edgar
Fred Charles Frank,	Clay Center		

## LEARNING ARTS OF WAR

The following young men of this county went to Lincoln last Saturday morning, June 24th, to enter the United States training camp that has been established in that city to prepare mechanics for different branches of the service:

Harry Urbach,	Harvard.	James A. Chance,	Edgar.
Henry Charles Oleson,	Saronville.	Arthur R. Kessles,	Sutton.
John F. Nicely,	Edgar.	Henry H. White,	Fairfield.
Benjamin H. Hein,	Deweese.	Ruby Groves,	Clay Center.

These young men will be given technical training in various kinds of mechanical lines and after a three months' period of schooling will be inducted into the actual military service wherever needed.

## REGISTER FOR NURSES

In response to the recent appeal made by the government, young ladies registered in August, 1918, as being ready to enter upon the course of preliminary training:

Francis Eller, Florence Schwab, Florence Secord, Ilma Brewer and Netta Lyons.

If that bunch of girls get into the hospitals at the front Uncle Sam will have to make more liberal draft rules for we will need lots and lots of men to take the places of the boys who will force themselves into the hospital when they learn who's there.

## JOIN THE COLORS

The following men entrained for Fort Omaha, Nebraska, Monday, September 9, 1918:

Hugo Ochsner, Sutton.

Ralph B. Hoebet, Fairfield.

The following entrained for Manhattan, Kansas, September 19, 1918:

Arthur F. Denney, Fairfield.

Arthur L. Teter, Clay Center.

Albert L. Hoydar, Fairfield.

John Donnelly, Clay Center.

John Vincent Croker, Clay Center.

Francis Hattan, Edgar.

Henry Otto Gemar, Sutton.

Montie Shields, Sedan.

Carl E. Nicolai, Sutton.

Ralph Campbell, Clay Center.

## HOME BOYS NOW FIGHTING

France, August 10, 1918.

Mr. F. B. Howard,

Dear Sir:

All the boys are O. K. They are out now in the lines somewhere getting Duteh. I see them occasionally when I take the feed out to them. Have some great times getting there. Shells hitting all around and over but a fellow can dodge them.

August 6th is the day you can mark as the one we moved in for our share of revenge. It is great to be in it this far. The nights are wild but experience is a good teacher and a fellow soon gets used to it.

I get the mail here for the boys and take it out and bring others back.

You'll hear from us in your papers soon. I wish I could tell you more, but thought a line would help. The boys are busy and no mail has gone out for a week and probably will be another week. There will be spells when the boys can write but some times long between.

You can place this so the parents will know that the boys are O. K. and no news is good news. Earl Buchtel, Wm. Borland, Giz Fryar and all the boys from our corner of the state are there. This includes Jones also, who was with Fryar. The States are sure doing wonderful here. It is all United States here and everywhere. Hello to all. From the Boys.

Yours respectfully,

Sergt. J. C. Brehm.

Co. G, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry in Active Service.

HONORS FOR SOLDIER LADDIES—5,000 CLAY COUNTY FOLKS GATHER TO BID THE  
BOYS ADIEU

Tuesday, September 4, 1917, Patriotic Day in Clay County, the day set aside by the entire county to pay honor to our boys who have been summoned to the colors, was recognized by even old Dame Nature herself as being a day worthy of mark and she did her bit by ushering in the morning's first light with a thunderous salute from the heavy batteries of heaven. Peal after peal shook the vault above us for half an hour and then, to show her greatest favor, we were accorded a gentle shower to lay the dust and the sun burst forth on as perfect a day as could have been desired for the occasion.

COMPANY G ARRIVES

The boys of Company G in camp in Hastings arrived in forty-two autos sent from this city for them at about 10 o'clock and immediately made themselves welcome by their actions and appearance. In this company Clay Center has a number of men and Clay County a large representation and it was a pleasure to note that, individually and collectively, they were just the kind of a company that any county might be proud to send as their representatives into any land on the face of the earth. They were gentlemen first and soldiers all of the time. With America's fate in the hands of such as these, there can be but one result, for against such, autocratic wrongs cannot prevail.

THE PROGRAM

Dinner finally out of the way the crowd found its way to the most advantageous positions and listened to a splendid program of music and patriotic talks. The chorus of thirty voices that represented Sutton on the program acquitted themselves with much credit and the singing of America by a thousand, aye probably three thousand voices was one of the most impressive features of the day. Chairman Logan kept everyone on the program working and there were no drags to tire the audience.

The following boys who are the first summoned for actual military duty from the county's draft, were introduced to the audience and occupied honor places on the platform during the program.

FIRST FIVE PER CENT ORDERED TO EXTRAIN FOR FORT RILEY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

James Coxbill, Deweese.  
Byron B. Vaughan, Edgar.  
Ivan V. Bentz, Fairfield.

B. J. Townsend, Clay Center.  
Carl H. Nolde, Sutton.  
John S. Deering, Sutton.

SUBSTITUTE

Ralph McCune, Glenville.

MONDAY A BIG DAY

When the official report did come early Monday morning that hostilities were to cease, the biggest celebration Sutton has ever known began. All the bells and

whistles in town were kept going at their fullest capacity, and bonfires and marchers and singers and joyriders were disporting themselves in an abandonment never equalled in staid old Sutton. By 9 o'clock a large crowd was in town and it was decided to have a real parade. And it was the real thing. The band made up for the occasion led. The school children, home guards, boy scouts, city officials, and most everybody who could walk or ride followed. And it was the gayest and noisest parade you ever saw.

After this numerous burnt offerings to warm the patriotic ardor of some of the more doubting Thomases were given, with and without the consent of the owners. But they, no doubt, were good for the spirit. The business houses were closed all day, and everyone who could navigate was out to enjoy the fun.

But the evening performance beat them all. By 7 o'clock Saunders Avenue was packed as far as you could see. How many thousands were here we do not know, but it was one of the monster crowds of Sutton's history. The effigy of the kaiser was hanged on a tower about thirty feet high and amid intense enthusiasm the match was applied and soon it was a blazing torch. The band played a number of selections and a large chorus sang patriotic selections. This was followed by addresses by our pastors, L. A. Dunphy, D. G. Schurr, and C. E. Norlin, and a prayer of thanksgiving by Rev. Birk. These addresses reflected the sentiments of the multitude and were received with loud applause. All the speakers put in a good word for the United War Service drive on this week, as a means of showing our appreciation for the wonderful work of the boys in khaki. It will be a long time before they can all come home, and they deserve the best that we can offer.

The big fire that had been provided by the committee, apparently did not meet with the approval of Andrew Peter, as he furnished a real spectacle when the old beer vault which he had purchased, began to flame in good style. This was the climax of the big day's celebration, and Mr. Peter can feel proud of having furnished the biggest spectacle in honor of our boys in far-away France.

The day was an ideal one—warm, bright and sunshiny, and without wind. Just the kind of a day one would wish for the happiest day we have all known for many years. The big crowd was well behaved, in spite of the carnival spirit that pervaded all. This celebration will never be forgotten by all who participated, and was expressive of the great joy of our people at the victory of allied arms and especially of the wonderful record made by the Yanks, who have won the admiration of the whole world.

#### MISTAKEN IDENTITY

An interesting sidelight on the momentous times is the discovery that the great German "Gott" of battle, regarding whose activities in behalf of the kaiser and his cohorts we have heard so much, turns out to be merely a case of mistaken identity. The German nation is now about to find the true God, in humility, reparation to those they wronged as far as it is possible and in rebuilding what they have destroyed. When all nations have learned this lesson, there will be peace without ending.

#### PRAISES OLD FIFTH REGIMENT

Colonel Paul proud of His Nebraska Boys and the Record of State Troops

Hamilton County furnished a very large number of the men who served under Colonel Paul in the old Fifth Nebraska Regiment, which later became the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Regiment of the Sand-storm Division. All will be interested in the following statement made by Colonel Paul upon his return from France:

"The Flu cheated us of a crack at the Hun, but the Nebraska boys were ready for them, despite our hard luck," declared Col. H. J. Paul, of the old Fifth Nebraska, late of the Three Hundred and Sixth Infantry in France.

Colonel Paul arrived in Omaha Saturday from Camp Dix, where he was mustered out a few days following his return to this country. After a brief rest here he will go to Lincoln to assume his duties as adjutant general of the state, which appointment he received at the hands of Governor McKelvie while still in France.

Colonel Paul was commander of the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Infantry at Camp Cody and sailed with this branch of the thirty-fourth division for France on October 17, 1918.

"We trained at Camp Cody just one year, and when we were ordered to Dix in August we were sure that we were en route direct for the front," related the colonel. "The boys were overjoyed when we heard later that we would leave Dix and be sent immediately to the firing line. On the eve of our departure, September 10th, influenza struck the camp and we were quarantined for a month. When we finally did sail, orders had been so changed that our chances of getting in the big fight were done."

The organization landed at Liverpool on October 23d, went direct to Camp Codford near Southampton and three days later crossed the channel. "We were sent to a camp twelve miles from Bordeaux, arriving there October 30th, and November 10th were ordered to Le Mons. While en route to Le Mons the old Nebraska outfit was stunned by news of the armistice. A madder bunch you never saw, and I most certainly joined the boys in their grief.

"At Le Mons the organization was scattered to the four winds as replacement troops. And here I might add that I consider this bit of treatment to have been decidedly rough on an outfit that had been so long intact.

"I was assigned as commander of the Three Hundred and Sixth Infantry of the seventy-seventh division of New York national army men, and as I assumed command I received word of my appointment by Governor McKelvie as adjutant general of the state. I sailed for home from Brest January 31st and landed at New York, February 12th.

"I have seen England and France and while the trip was interesting I am more than ever convinced that the United States is the only country in the world to live in.

"At Brest it rains 350 days out of the 365, and I cannot for the life of me see how it can be utilized for an embarkation camp. France in this vicinity is a sea of mud and accommodations for the troops there will be all but impossible.

"While at Brest, Chaplain Goodsell of Chadron, Nebraska, who is in charge of the German prison camp there, took me on a tour of the camp. The Germans were in fine spirits and seemed delighted at being out of the fight. The general tidiness of their surroundings seemed to be a source of pride to them. Their barracks, bakery and mess halls were models of German military efficiency. Captain Goodsell had charge of 2,300 German captives.



"I was never near the firing line, but my stay in France was long enough for me to learn that the national guard had made a marvelous record. There is not a single instance where the national guard as an organization did not more than fulfill the highest expectations. I maintain that the Rainbow division as an organization, unmolested by transfers, made the best showing of any division in France.

"The national guard will be the future military power of the United States, or it will be nothing," concluded Colonel Paul.

"I am confident that it will be the former, for records will prove that the guardsmen have passed the test and have come through the fire as fine as steel, as war's baptism can make of a soldier body."

Colonel Paul is staying at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Ray Williams, 4908 Webster Street.

HISTORY OF CO. G, 355TH INFANTRY, 89TH DIVISION IN THE 7TH ARMY CORPS AND  
ARMY OF OCCUPATION

Sergt. Joe Brehm

Just as the day was breaking on June 29, 1918, Co. G, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry arrived at Brechaville, France, its training area. Two days before, in leaving La Havre, our French disembarkation point, the men had been introduced to the European military system of transportation when they climbed into their railway carriages, the kind marked "Eight Cheveaux, forty Hommes." After one long night, a day, and half another night the train stopped at Laeffel de Grande and the company moved out for Brechaville in true infantry style on foot.

A start on the wrong road, a long uphill grind with full packs at night, a question as to the town to be occupied by the second battalion with the consequent delay, and a guard order waiting for Company G upon its arrival, made the first impression unpleasant. Before many days, however, the company buckled down in earnest to its business of making soldiers. This was the first opportunity for real work. At Camp Funston, Company G, Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry had been organized September 5, 1917, under command of Capt. Neville C. Fisher, but the enlisted strength, except non-commissioned officers later had been sent to other divisions as replacements. Less than a week before the company started to the point of embarkation it was filled with privates who had clothing and equipment hung on them like wraps on a hat rack in those last mad days in Kansas. The stay near New York was too short for drill. The trip across the Atlantic was notable only for the rumors of submarines off the Atlantic coast just before starting, and the training received during the stay in England was hardly worthy the name.

So in July, 1918, Co. G as a company learned practically all that it ever did about fighting Germans before it went to the trenches. And after our division once took the lines it never got out.

The training methods of Lieut. Mack V. Traynor, were slightly different from those of other company commanders. The result was noted by division inspector Lieut.-Col. (now Brigadier General) McCoy when he gave the company the best

rating of any company in the battalion after a detailed inspection the latter part of the month. A series of interplatoon competitions was the incentive that often kept men and officers working long after drill hours.

From Brechaville the company traveled in trucks to Trondes on August 5th and on a narrow gauge railroad the following night to a reserve position in the Rehanne woods on the Toul sector. Moving to Ansauville, in support, the night of August 7th, the company expected a rest, preparatory to its turn in the front line when the second battalion relieved the first, but events caused a change in the schedule. The Boche put over a heavy gas attack that night and Company G was detailed to reinforce the front line. The order came just before noon August 8th, and required a daylight relief, something never before attempted in that sector according to officers of the eighty-second division, which had preceded the eighty-ninth on the line.

During the first part of the march to the front parallel dozens of ambulances, filled with wounded going to the rear passed the company—hardly a heartening sight on the first trip up to no-man's land. The last few hundred yards was made with gas masks on. Owing, perhaps, to the fortunate coincident that for some reason no Boche balloons were up that afternoon, the relief was made without loss. The third platoon, with details from the other three, were attached to A Company while Lieutenant Traynor and the remainder of the company went to D.

The company's first casualties resulted from mustard gas yet lurking in Jury Woods and low ground further south. The tour of duty was largely uneventful, however.

When the second battalion took its turn in the line the company was given a sector south of Seicheprey and east of the approach trench into the town. On August 15th Capt. Neville C. Fisher, returning to duty from a tactical school, resumed command of the company.

Reconnaissance patrols from the different platoons penetrated the enemy lines on several occasions during the tour, gaining valuable information for the intelligence section. The sector was improved, trenches deepened, obstructions re-enforced and observation posts constructed.

At dawn, August 19th, less than an hour after one of our patrols had returned, the Boche artillery laid down one of the worst bombardments which the company suffered during the war. The range was perfect on the front line and for sixty minutes the barrage seemed like a huge cloudless thunderstorm with lightning striking less than a rod away at every breath. A direct hit that morning killed Henry Osness, the first man in our company killed in action. No raid or infantry advance followed the hostile artillery preparation but had the Boche come over he would have found our men at their posts ready for action.

The double "hitch" in the front line parallel ended August 22d when the battalion was relieved and marched back to Rehanne woods for a rest. On the following night trucks were provided and the remainder of the time spent in reserve was taken up by drill and maneuvers at Bong, France.

While at Ansauville in support from August 2d to August 7th, the company furnished a patrol for the brigade commander to reconnoiter the enemy trenches in front of a part of the Three Hundred and Fifty-fourth Infantry sector. The German lines were penetrated successfully but while the patrol was returning to the friendly trenches it was caught under heavy artillery fire and Sergt. Carl Holz was

killed; three men were wounded. The information desired—useful in planning the Saint Mihiel offensive—was obtained.

The second and last turn G Company took in the trenches started September 6th and ended the night of the Saint Mihiel drive, September 11-12th. From the time the fighting on the sectors occupied by the Eighty-ninth Division was in the open. During the final tour of trench duty part of the company drove off the first Boche patrol which attacked an outfit in the Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry. Two platoons had been in an outpost position at Seicheprey and just before daylight on the morning of September 9th, a small raiding party closed in on the town from the northwest. The patrol was completely routed with but two of our men slightly wounded. The skirmish was with hand grenades and rifles and the Germans retreated so fast that they left enough souvenirs to start a small museum.

The night of September 11-12th is one of the high lights in the pictures which portray the history of Company G, Captain Fisher and a reconnaissance detail had gone on ahead to Bennecourt and Flirey to get the advance information on the company's part in the Saint Mihiel drive. Infantry from the Forty-second and First Divisions was scheduled to relieve the detachment at Seicheprey and allow it to march to Flirey where it was to form part of a reserve battalion when the Americans went over at 5 a. m. Part of the relief arrived early in the evening, but the platoon which took over the Seicheprey outpost was delayed by the mud and storm. Fully half the company was marching east on the Flirey road, therefore, when at 5 a. m. the artillery barrage began, which seemed like the very world opening up. Man competed with nature that night—cannon flash against the oceans of water which fell from the skies, the roar of artillery against the rumble of thunder—and for a few hours man held his own reasonably well. That half of the men were not lost on the march is a wonder. Tanks, trucks, supply trains, a general's car here and there, and detachments from every branch of service were competing for the road space that night, but before zero hour the company was in place ready to push off.

If the world opened at 1 a. m. the universe yawned at five. The artillery bombardment was intensified, the airplanes went up, flares and fireworks lighted up the heavens, the smoke screen was laid down, the machine guns began a barrage of their own—and the doughboys started north. After moving less than six hundred yards Company G had captured a machine gun which had been overlooked by the leading waves, and had taken its first prisoners. The company captured approximately one hundred the first day. Then, with Fritzie on the run, the pursuit by day and digging of "foxholes" at night began. Euvasin, Boullionville were passed and the company halted north of Beney. Here for a few days we were attached to the third battalion. Strafing by artillery was an hourly occurrence and one German gun reached the company kitchen, wounding one of the cook's helpers and spoiling a perfectly good dinner.

No man in Company G will forget a battalion patrol in which the company participated, sent out to occupy Dempvitoux or to destroy enemy machine gun positions, if opposition were encountered. The latter mission was fulfilled. Neither will any man in the second or third platoons, picked by the major for patrol work under his personal command the following night, forget his experiences on that occasion. A small patrol was met and routed and several machine guns located.

On October 1st relief arrived at Beney and the company occupied reserve sectors around Boullionville until October 7th, hiking to Rehanne woods that day, and on to Beaumont October 8th. From there trucks carried the company to Argonne sector, Recicourt being the destination. Captain Fisher was transferred to D Company, giving Lieutenant Traynor command of our company while near Boullionville.

General Order No. 108, Headquarters Eighty-ninth Division, dated 18th of December, 1918, in which the division commander reviews the work of his organization overseas, has a peculiar interest for Company G men, because the only minor operation considered important enough to mention, relates so closely to this organization. This order contains the following statement: "After the Division relieved the Thirty-second American Division near Romange it cleaned up the Bois de Bantville and won commendation of the Corps and Army." This task was accomplished by the second battalion of the Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth Infantry and the first battalion of the Three Hundred and Fifty-sixth, our troops encountering the heavier fighting. Since the battalion commander later stated in the presence of his officers and non-commissioned officers that Company G is more entitled to credit for the success of the movement than any other company in the battalion, reference to the commendation by higher commanders is unnecessary to complete our history.

The second battalion relieved a support battalion of the Thirty-second Division near Epionville, October 13th, but six days later it moved to the Bantville woods to prepare for the required advance. When the waves started forward the night of October 20-21st, G Company was in support and suffered heavily in casualties from German whizbangs and light artillery which opened when the American activity commenced. The troops halted for the night on the reserve slope of a hill not further than three hundred yards from the hostile guns. G Company was brought up close behind E and F companies at daylight and all dug in. Sneezing gas caused no little inconvenience while making the move.

Late in the morning the company was ordered to make the assault and closed in on the nest, the other three companies supporting. No sooner had the line started forward than the sharp deadly burst of fire from the hostile "Maxims" began. No artillery support was available and it soon became plain that the only way to take the guns was to take them. The men were equal to the emergency and the afternoon had not progressed far before welcome cries of "Kamerad" indicated the success of the undertaking was assured. The machine guns were sent back, with seven prisoners. The other Boche were killed or chased out of the woods. One officer and thirty-nine men of our company were casualties at Bantville. These few facts tell as much as a volume.

Early in the morning of October 22d the battalion was relieved by companies from the Three Hundred and Fifty-third Infantry and G Company went to support positions near Epionville to stay until the night of October 21st.

The above, which lasted until the armistice stopped hostilities on that fateful eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month started Hallowe'en night. We were near Gescnes when we started across the Meuse River from Inor, November 11th. For six days we went too fast for the kitchen to keep up and lived largely on reserve rations and cabbage and turnips out of German gardens. Unlike the situation during the Saint Mihiel offensive, feed was not available.

The battalion was supporting the first at Beaulair where G Company passed through a nasty barrage. That night a patrol, half of E Company and half of G Company, was detailed to occupy and hold Luzy. The task was so accomplished without finding Heine, though one of the fifty liberated civilians said that the last Boche detachment retreated only fifteen minutes before the Americans arrived. At Luzy G Company men for the first time saw unrestrained joy of the French town people, released from four years of slavery. The soldiers had no sooner been recognized as friends until the streets was filled with hysterical women, wondering children who had never before seen such strange uniforms, and feeble old men silently weeping or murmuring prayers of thanksgiving. Their meager stock of food was cooked up and forced on the hungry soldiers, whose meals had been few for many days and who were glad to borrow hot coffee and French bread until the army supplies caught up.

November 7th, the morning the company started on its last move before hostilities ceased, Lieut. Mack V. Traynor was wounded and evacuated, leaving the senior Lieutenant (Madden) in command.

Two nights before November 11th, one officer and four men volunteered and were taken on a particularly dangerous battalion patrol across the Meuse River. One man was missing in action that night.

When the armistice took effect Company G was on the first line sector just across the Meuse from Fritz, who was within sniping distance of the edge of the woods occupied by the battalion. The word reached our part of the line about thirty minutes after the time set for the ending of hostilities and it was received with surprisingly little demonstration. While Heine was dancing and drinking around huge bon-fires to tunes furnished by an improvised band, our men were quietly drying their clothes, warming their hands at fires, which had been tabooed for so long, or perhaps writing letters to the home which now seemed nearer. A simple religious service of thanks was conducted by the chaplain helped impress the importance of the morning's events upon our minds. Seldom was America sung with such feeling as it was that morning, with only the dripping water of the trees as an accompaniment.

After a few days of inactivity and one day's work on a salvage detail the battalion marched back to Barricourt, arriving November 14th. There available equipment was issued preparatory to the long march into Germany as part of the Army of Occupation.

The start was made November 24th with Steney as the first stop. We marched through strips of France and Belgium, across Luxemburg and into Germany. The detailed itinerary follows:

Steney, France, November 24th to 25th.

Sapogne, France, November 25th to 30th.

Dampicourt, Belgium, December 1st to 2d.

Bartringen, Luxemburg, December 2d to 3d.

Gouderingen, Luxemburg, December 3d to 4th.

Scheidgen, Luxemburg, December 4th to 6th.

Welschbiling, Germany, December 6th to 7th.

Spang, Germany, December 7th to 9th.

Auw, Germany, December 9th to 19th (Joe's Birthday).

At Auw, Eyll, Daufenbach and Cordel (one platoon in each town), the company

did a ten days' tour of railroad guard duty. There too, the present company commander, Capt. Ira J. Barbour, joined us on December 11, 1919.

On December 19th we marched to Schweich and the following day came in trucks to our following station, Beurig. Here drill schedules, hikes, athletic events, target practice, games, etc., have kept our time well occupied.

Perhaps the event which Company G will remember longest in relation to Beurig is our Christmas dinner. Table service, a relief from the noon line, in itself a big treat, but when combined with the menu for that day, the result is almost past belief for the A. E. F. Roast pork, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, butter, jam, home baked cookies, tarts, rice pudding, huge portions of peach pie, coffee, cigars, cigarettes and wine—that is, cider—such a dinner wouldn't be sneeze at, even in the States, especially when we had music with every course and Major Campbell, Captain Fisher and Lieutenant Millikemp (two of the original Company G officers) and Chaplain Chiarre as guests of honor, each one was called on for a few remarks.

The personnel of the company is representative of the best manhood of Nebraska and other states of the Middle West. Only four court martial cases in a year and five months is a record worthy of any organization and shows that problems of discipline have never been a source of trouble. The company's accomplishments speak for themselves and every member may be proud of the fact that it played a vital, first hand part in subduing an army which threatened the peace and liberty of the world from August, 1914, to November 11, 1919.









